

**City of Alexandria, Virginia
Park and Recreation Commission**

**REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, April 21, 2011, 7:30p.m.
Charles Houston Recreation Center
901 Wythe Street**

Agenda

- I.** Call to Order by Chair
- II.** Approval of Summary Minutes from February 17, 2011, March 17, 2011
- III.** Follow-up Waterfront SAP - Public Hearing April 5, 2011
- IV.** Follow-up Ft Ward Stakeholders Advisory Committee Report and Recommendations
- V.** Next Steps-on Creation of an Adult Sport Advisory Group
- VI.** Francis C. Hammond - Fields and Lights
- VII.** Division Updates:
 - A. Recreation Programs and Service Update -William Chesley
 - B. Operations and Park Planning Monthly Report - Roger Blakeley
 - C. Office of the Arts Update - Alisa Carrel
 - D. Park Planning Updates - Ron Kagawa, Laura Durham
 - i. Divisional Updates
 - ii. Aquatics Master Plan
 - iii. Needs Assessment
 - iv. Four Mile Run Park Expansion and Community Building
 - v. 1& 7 E. Del Ray Ave. Pocket Park
 - E. Marketing, Public Relations & Special Events - Cheryl Lawrence
 - i. 2011 Park and Recreation Commission CIVIC Awards
 - ii. RPCA Facility and Naming Policy
- VIII.** Director's Report - James Spengler
 - A. Simpson Fields
 - B. Jones Point Park Update
- IX.** Retreat Action Items:
 - A. Next Steps on Draft Bylaws
 - B. Other Items for Discussion
- X.** Report from Commissioners (verbal updates):
 - A. Waterfront Committee -William Cromley
 - B. Youth Sport Committee - Jeffrey Murphy
 - C. Four Mile Run - Ripley Forbes
 - D. Charles Houston Memorial Project - William Cromley
 - E. Freedman's Cemetery - Bob Moir
 - F. Beauregard Corridor
 - G. ACPS & Capital Improvements- Judy Guse-Noritake
 - H. Jones Point Park Liaison Group- Judy Guse-Noritake

- XI.** Agenda Items for May meeting and location
- XII.** List of Upcoming Public Meetings
- XIII.** Adjournment

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
Park and Recreation Commission**

REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.
Mt. Vernon Recreation Center
2701 Commonwealth Avenue

SUMMARY NOTES

As there was not a quorum of Commissioners present at the meeting, the items on the published agenda were presented and discussed but no action was taken on any item. The notes that follow are a summary of the discussion that occurred. Items that required action by the Commission were deferred to the following month's meeting".

Commission Members: Chairperson, Judy Guse-Noritake, Bob Moir, Rich Brune, Ripley Forbes and Jeffrey Murphy.
Absent: Henry Brooks, William Cromley, David Dexter, Stephen (Clark) Mercer, Anthony Zamora, Mollie Timmons.

RPCA Staff: Director, James B. Spengler, Roger Blakeley, William Chesley, Jack Browand, Ron Kagawa, Laura Durham, Dana Wedeles, Robin DeShields.

Guests: Bob Larson and Annette Whitehurst of Architects Anonymous, Thomas Fulton, Chair Ft. Ward Advisory Committee, Jennifer Hovis, EPC, Sharon Annear and Mark Barton.

- I. **Call to Order by Chair:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Chair noted that a number of members (6) were absent: Brooks, Cromley, Dexter, Mercer, Zamora, and Timmons; therefore there was not a quorum.

- II. **Public Hearing on Concept Plan for Four Mile Run Park Expansion -Open Space Properties 4109 - 4125 Mount Vernon Avenue-** Laura Durham, City Open Space Coordinator.
 - **See Staff Report - background:** presentations previously held on the approval and conversion of the old Duron paint store building, which is now Four Mile Run Community Building; this is the second part of that process. Construction drawings for the community building are finished, and the project will go to bid shortly. The City purchased four sites with open space funds and allocated an additional \$100,000 from the Open Space Fund for the project.
 - The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is submitting a grant application to the state to fund the purchase of a stage and awning (See docket item #9, 2/22/11).
 - The four parcels acquired in June 2007; for \$4.5 million (includes acquisition and remediation work). A Voluntary Remediation Certification received from state for expansion of the Four Mile Run Park, the process took 1.5 years. Impervious section kept for the plaza area. To date the site has remained vacant. Park planning done pro-bono by Architects Anonymous, represented tonight by Bob Larson and Annette Whitehurst.
 - **Bob Larson** - of Larson Architects gave a brief presentation on the project.
 - The site is located at Mt. Vernon Ave on the West; Four Mile Run to the North; existing park and soccer field on the East; and the commercial part of Arlandria to the South. The goal is to create one linear space that can function as one large open space or broken up into smaller spaces.
 - The Community Building has an attached stage for performances. The design on the opposite end can be used as an amphitheater area, complimented by an organic area with rocks; used for a seating area, children climbing area and performance area.
 - On the W. & E. sides, open space is flanked with trees: blacktop will be resurfaced, permeable pavers installed, synthetic turf, painting medallions on asphalt, and seating areas under trees on both sides, to allow people to sit in the shade and still participate.
 - The Farmers Market will continue to operate and the new space will allow for future expansion.

- Parking and off-loading area (2 entries and exits) Maintaining 2 existing parking lots N. & S (of former Duron paint store).
- Original plan was to pull in curb line along Mt. Vernon Avenue for additional parking. Rich Baier, Director of T&ES suggested options for additional parking and traffic calming measures including reducing the lane to three at this location with parking along the east side.
- Trees will provide a buffer, but trimmed up branches will allow views into and out of the site.
- Annette Whitehurst - Rhodeside and Harwell, Landscape Architects (Architects Anonymous)
- Pathways connect to the site and Four Mile Run Park area.
Spectators for the athletic field could have grass covered berms to sit on. Larson-Area behind the building can be used for movies or performances with grassy areas or boulders to sit on. Children can play in the area when not in use.
- Rain garden at east side of the site to collect storm water.
- Chair Noritake- commented that regarding berms on sides of field- a nice feature to let people sit up a bit high to have a better view of the field.
- She suggested that area on the other side (to the northwest of the field) be open for children to play and practice soccer.
- The Four Mile Run master plan envisioned the community plaza in a more formal way. Now both the building and site is proceeding as an interim five-year plan. We cannot afford to do large-scale right now, but will phase in a more refined version over time. This is a different approach for the community.
- **Public Comments:**
- **Jennifer Hovis** - Chair City Environmental Policy Commission (EPC):
Written Comments: As Chair of the EPA, she is here to support the plan, which directly supports the City's Eco City Charter and Environmental Action Plan. The EPC is pleased to see expanded space for the Farmers Market, as well as valuable open space that are a great benefit to the community. EPC requests that, consistent with Eco City, the plan include low impact landscaping (e.g. native plants, minimal fertilizer/pesticides), rain gardens and other green storm water management approaches, and new tree canopy. EPC also supports reuse of the existing building as an environmental education center with displays storm water BMPs on display as a resource to citizens. Ms. Hovis commented that in the early days staff discussed re-uses involving environmental components: i.e. displaying a rain barrel, they will be supportive of this.
- *The Chair commented that environmental concerns and elements are essential to the plan as it has been conceived to date.*
- **Kevin Beekman** - Arlandria Action Plan Advisory Group
- Background- the Arlandria Action Plan Advisory Group (SAP) was put into place in 2003. Money was donated for streetscape improvements. The SAP process 1998 - 2003 gave a vision for the Arlandria neighborhood. \$500,000 was given for streetscape improvements along Mt. Vernon Ave. Money has been available for some time; some funds will go for pedestrian improvements. \$200,000 has been available since 2007 and carried over year to year. At its' February 16 meeting, the Advisory Group agreed by consensus to recommend use of existing Arlandria CIP Funds \$200,000 for the Four Mile Run Park Expansion project. Laura Durham said money has already been allocated by City Council for use in Arlandria, and the request to use the funds for the park will now go to City Manager. The Chair said a preliminary cost estimate has been done; staff will obtain drawings for site and plan to use funds. There will be lots of opportunity for sweat-equity (the building will be painted bright red.) May 6 is the City's "Spring for Alexandria" community day. Durham -hope to have the basic building improvements made by then.
- Mr. Spengler- on the City Council docket next Tuesday (2/22/11 Item #9) there is a Grant Submission to the Virginia Commission for the Arts for \$20,000 for planned improvements to the Four Mile Run Community Building. The grant requires a one-to-one match for a total of \$40,000; funds will be used toward the design and installation of the stage.

- **Update on Farmers Market, Arlandria** - Kevin Beekman- the Farmers Market has recently been approved to accept food stamps. DHS – Richmond will provide technical assistance on processing payments. The Chair said this is an important step able to help bring fresh and local produce to the Arlandria neighborhood.
- The Chair asked if there were any other comments; there were no comments, the public hearing was closed.

REGULAR MEETING

The Chair began the regular meeting with the Director’s Report, Item VI-A on Ft. Ward Park Stakeholders Advisory Report and Recommendations, since a number of people came to hear this item. Due to lack of a quorum, the P&RC will hear items, but not vote on issues tonight.

III. Approval of Summary Minutes from January 20, 2011- deferred to March.

IV. Vote on Officers for the Coming Year – nominations were held February, vote deferred to March.

V. Division Updates: To See Full Staff Reports go to: www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation/Commission reports.

- A. Recreation Programs and Services Update - William Chesley
- B. Operations & Park Planning Monthly Report - Roger Blakeley
- C. Office on the Arts Update - Alisa Carrel
- D. Park Planning Updates - Ron Kagawa See Staff Report
 - Witter Field- a pre-construction meeting was held yesterday, groundbreaking is scheduled for March 12, 8:00 a.m. Information was sent to City Council. There are no residents around the site. The land was purchased with settlement money from the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. No City funds were used. Anticipated beneficial occupancy date is March/April of 2012. General Contractor is Avon Construction Co.; Avon has previously constructed Minnie Howard, Fort Ward and Ben Brenman synthetic fields in Alexandria City.
 - P.Y. Landbay - breaking ground in March. Staff will work with team to ensure standards for Construction Administration are met. The City will maintain the park upon completion and acceptance.
- E. Marketing, Public Relations & Special Events - Jack Browand
 - *Note: there were no major comments on staff reports.*

VI. Director’s Report - James Spengler

- A. **Ft. Ward Stakeholders Advisory Committee Report**: (See Staff Report Item V1-A, and Recommendations.) Background: In June 2009, City Council established an Ad Hoc Ft. Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholders Advisory Group to advise City staff on Ft. Ward Park and Museum use and management. The group ended in January 2011 and has now submitted their report and recommendations for the future management and planning of the park.
 Director James Spengler asked Laura Durham to provide an update on project. The Chair noted that this was not a public hearing item. Mr. Spengler said a work session with City Council is tentatively scheduled for 5:00 p.m., March 22 on the Ft. Ward Park recommendations. Staff will work with Tom Fulton, Chair of the Ft. Ward Advisory Group, to develop a presentation for the work session. The agenda will also include presentations by the History and Archeological groups. Staff from RPCA, OHA and T&ES is in the process of reviewing recommendations; making comments and developing a list of cost estimates, some information is still pending (See Attachment). Staff anticipates completing the report in the next two weeks.

- Laura Durham - said tonight's information is very preliminary; some information is still pending (See attached chart.) The chart shows recommendations and some cost estimates, in order to get a range of possible requests through CIP budget process. T&ES is working on an estimate for storm water improvements; \$35,000 has been received for the study and next steps. Pam Cressey, City Archeologist is working with staff on recommendations. Cost- One-time costs based on estimates is \$1.1 million (not including storm water improvements), annual cost estimates are \$80,000 a year (plus any new trees). One recommendation made was to re-establish trees lost from storm damage. Any work will have to be sensitive to the cultural resources management plan that is being developed.
- Pam Cressey- the 1st Stage of archaeological work has been in specific areas where there were expectations of burial areas with unmarked graves. A great deal of investigation was done in the maintenance yard, where oral history from previous residents provided information that graves were in at least three general areas. Another area of inquiry was the parcel associated with the earliest African American family, the Shorts, and their expected home. This parcel is northwest of the Oakland Baptist Cemetery. A Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) study was done first, and then excavation was conducted to "ground-truth" these findings. The investigation documented that GPR was marginally useful, since correlations were not one to one. Over half of the GPR readings showed no graves, and thus were false positives. In other cases, graves were identified through excavation, which were not recognized by GPR technology. Thus, while GPR can assist in locating graves, field excavation is needed to identify all graves positively. Shovel testing across the maintenance yard and the Shorts provided concrete information regarding location of the Shorts home and other features associated with the African American neighborhood, "The Fort." The next stage of archeology would cost \$75,000. This work would include shovel testing most of the park and conducting historical research in order to complete a history report. These products would update the Cultural Resource Management Inventory, which would be a baseline for master planning). Depending on how T&ES designs stormwater mitigation measures or daylighting streams, additional archaeological assessment and treatment may be needed (approximately \$15,000 to \$75,000).
- The Chair said that storm water improvements seem to be the priority. Spengler- In terms of the proposed City Manager's budget next year. There is no funding for the recommendations in budget for FY 2012. Items will have to be done through add and delete budget process.
- Commissioners comments: (Brune, Forbes, Moir- members of Advisory Group)
- Q. Brune- asked what the direct costs estimates are.
- R. Durham- they are looking at getting more information.
- Q. Forbes- can you elaborate on decommission of the maintenance yard, what is involved.
- R. Durham- there is a grading plan, archeology oversight, and then minimal grading near gravel and some plantings will be done.
- Q. Moir- what is timeframe for archeology work?
- R. Durham- timeframe is based on availability of funding (there is no funding). Mr. Spengler said we could not submit until Archeology work is completed. The plan for decommission will be submitted as part of budget process for FY2013. In response to a question from Mr. Brune, he said most areas are archeologically sensitive. In RPCA's CIP budget, there are no funds to do improvements other than normal maintenance items (mowing every 14 days and trash pickup). Durham- the Manager on Duty (MOD) is still funded. Spengler- staff has requested funding for a master plan.
- Thomas Fulton, Chair Ft. Ward Advisory Group (See Written Statement): Mr. Fulton thanked the P&RC for appointing Commissioners Rich Brune, Ripley Forbes and Bob Moir to the Advisory Group; their contributions were significant. He also thanked the Chair for recommending that the City conduct the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) study, which was undertaken. While the hits and accurate showing of graves was less than 50%, this was higher than

the statistical average for GPR, which is about 20%, it is about 40% accurate. GPR is a useful tool; its use should continue to help locate the many graves in Ft. Ward Park. Citizens have expressed concerns regarding the management of Ft. Ward Park, and the possible effects on marked and unmarked graves in the park. Mr. Fulton hopes the P&RC will support the recommendations made by the Ft. Ward Park Advisory Group. He stated that although, many changes have been accomplished in the last year, e.g. RPCA revamped its picnic reservation system to reduce very large gatherings in the park, much still remains to be done. RPCA Director James Spengler and OHA Director Lance Mallamo have pledged to work together to resolve problems and to have joint management of the park.

Next Steps: the archeology work needs to be finished, and a storm water plan needs to be devised and implemented. In addition, a park master plan needs to be developed for Ft. Ward Park with citizen input. A City Council work session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22 to consider the Advisory Group's recommendations. Mr. Fulton and staff of RPCA, OHA and T&ES will attend and give a presentation.

- **Chair Noritake:** asked if the P&RC needs to write a letter to City Council for work session. A follow up discussion will be held at the next P&RC meeting March 17.
- **Spengler-** yes- to be on the record, for the P&RC to hold a public hearing.
- **Master Planning for Parks:** Discussion: In response to Mr. Fulton's comments regarding the need for a master plan for Ft. Ward Park, the Chair said that a master plan should be developed which would incorporate the large City parks, each would have a specific chapter in this Large Park Master Plan. The uses for these larger parks will continue to grow over time and those uses need to be allocated across this set of large parks. In her opinion, use at Ft. Ward will not become intensified but if some uses are moved elsewhere that needs to be accommodated as a part of a Large Park Master Plan. A consultant has been hired to update the needs assessment done in 2002; questions are being developed including historical resources of parks, including Ft. Ward. The results of the needs assessment will be used to make recommendations to City Council to do a Large Park Master Plan which will include Ft. Ward.
- **Ripley Forbes-** he sees Ft. Ward as unique and special; he would not be opposed to a master plan for Ft. Ward. He asked how much a comprehensive master plan would cost.
- **Mr. Spengler-** most communities have a comprehensive plan for the whole city, which includes parks, transportation, utilities, etc. The City of Alexandria, does things differently, it uses Small Area Plans (SAP). The current needs assessment survey will cost \$25,000 to update. The estimate for a master plan for Ft. Ward is \$150,000. Durham - this does not include cultural resources study, which would be needed. Director Spengler said if done comprehensively with other parks, a comprehensive master plan may cost 0.5 million, depending on the scope. **Judy Noritake, Chair** commented that as staff looks 5 years down the road, we are not planning to intensify uses at Ft. Ward. The pressure for a master plan will come sooner on the parks where uses must be intensified to accommodate increase recreational pressures, e.g. Four Mile Run or Chinquapin Parks. Mr. Spengler explained as uses are moved from one park to another, staff will get concerns from other parks where uses are intensified if have not done planning in those to appropriately address increased use. The community at large wants places to hold large picnics and year-round sports, this intensifies uses in certain areas of the City. The Chair said the only way to solve this is to define the uses for each park and have a broad community discussion about the shared needs and solutions. We have to look at recreation resources and develop a plan for all parks.
- **Bob Moir, Vice Chair** commented that unlike other parks, Ft. Ward is historical, and has been around since the Civil War; now celebrating its 150th anniversary. We need to make funding for the gravesite study a priority. He said the P&RC should consider writing a letter to City Council to obtain funds for the gravesite study.
- **Tom Fulton-** The City Manager put forward two high priority items to City Council in the budget. One was \$75,000 for archeology work at Ft. Ward Park. A letter from the P&RC will help.
- **Action Item:** The Chair asked Mr. Fulton to email her the information and she will draft a letter in support of that funding. The P&RC members present were largely in support of a writing letter.

This item will be put back on agenda for March 17. A work session will be held with City Council on March 22.

- Mr. Fulton thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak; his statement will be entered into the record.

Regular Meeting (continued):

- **Commissioners Appointments-** Judy Guse-Noritake, Chair
The Chair noted that several members are up for reappointment (Henry Brooks, David Dexter, Richard Brune). Henry Brooks and David Dexter will not seek reappointment; the Chair will ask David Dexter to remain a liaison to the P&RC for the BRAC project. Richard Brune has submitted his letter for reappointment; the P&RC members present recommended approval of Mr. Brune's reappointment. The Chair will write a letter of endorsement.
- **Recreational Needs Assessment (RNA) Update** - James Spengler, Director
Director Spengler reported that staff is working with Leisure Vision, Inc. to develop parameters for an updated RNA (done by L.V. in 2002). Leisure Vision does similar reports for other jurisdictions nearby. RPCA staff held a meeting on Feb. 16 to define a list of questions for the survey. Mr. Spengler asked for volunteers from the P&RC to work with Laura Durham and Dana Wedeles (RPCA project leads) to develop a final list of questions. Target date for completion is the last week in March. Rich Brune volunteered. The Chair reviewed the list of proposed questions and will forward comments to staff. She said the last report did not adequately define athletic fields as our City uses them. Also a question should be added: What doesn't the City provide that patrons go elsewhere to use, and what would people like to see in the community that is currently not present? The report will provide a roadmap for the future, it is important to ask the right questions. Laura Durham - recommendation from Leisure Vision is to break out items and report them in aggregate, this will be discussed further. Ms. Durham said report is limited to six pages due to cost. Dana Wedeles, RPCA and Ron Wise of L.V. are updating report based on Feb. 16 meeting.

B. RPCA FY 2012 Budget and CIP- See Attachment: The Director reviewed the budget and CIP.

- **Capital Improvement Program (CIP)** for FY2012 to FY2011 is Net \$75 million for RPCA function:
Highlights: Patrick Henry Rec. Ctr.- numbers shown are for renovation existing recreation center and gym; Miracle Field- funds moved from FY 2020 to FY 2014, YSAB would like it moved to FY2013. Ron Kagawa said estimated planning time is one year for construction; window for site work is summer.
- Open Space Acquisition- City Manager added \$16,000,000 for the 10-year period for land acquisition.
- Q. Chair- where will money for replacement of athletic fields come from over time as the "rugs" wear out?
- R. Spengler-currently funding shown in any year is for both conversion and replacement. Cost for replacement of carpet on turf fields is not broken out as a separate item.
- **Operating Budget for RPCA** is \$20,444,374.
 - General fund expenditures increased by net 3.1%; RPCA down 35 positions from 2007; Loss of 2 FTE (transferred to Central ITS Dept). Mowing schedule changed from seven to 14 days. Level of facilities upkeep-deferred scheduled maintenance.
- **Comments from Commissioners:**
- Moir- regarding turf replacement at Minnie Howard (built in 2001).
- Kagawa- last night all lights were replaced at Minnie Howard. Lights are still under warranty.
- **Action Item:** The Chair will write a note to the City Manager regarding replacement of turf on the first synthetic turf fields which will be due around 2019. She will ask for funding and about setting up an endowment or reserve fund.
- Mr. Spengler- commented- on the ongoing Fields Matrix List. Need a priority list and matched to years. Show first field as another replacement of existing field.
- Spengler- the updated RNA will inform us on community needs.

- Laura Durham said RNA back 1st week of May. Judy Noritake suggested a discussion on results in June or July.
- **Action Item**- Judy Noritake, Chair will send a short note on budget to City Manager with copy to Mark Jinks.
- **Alexandria Waterfront Public Art Proposal**- The Chair submitted a letter (dated 2/17) on behalf of the P&RC in support of the proposal to the Director Planning & Zoning (copy distributed).
- **Project Nest** - James Spengler- (See flier) - Local art centers and groups will build 12 outdoor temporary nests, made from natural/recycled materials. Nests installation will occur along the Waterfront beginning April 10. The Waterfront Committee and Art Commission endorsed the project.
- **Open Space Forum**- Barbara Ross was instrumental in establishing the original Open Space Steering Committee and Master Plan. Barbara, Judy and Laura will outline a proposal for large committee/commission/boards meeting to be followed by a public open space summit to discuss policy issues and opportunities, i.e. locations. Chair - we need to have a public discussion about these open space policy issues, including how the fund is used and reimbursed if open space property is not used for open space. Bob Moir- commented that land will only become more valuable; he does not favor selling it. Noritake- if a business wants to do a ground lease at market rate, money could go back into the open space fund.
- Laura Durham, Open Space Coordinator- stated we need to look at the code on how open space accounting can apply as the fund is to be used only for acquisition and improvements to new open space.
- Durham-2/28/11- meeting on Open Space by Developers in the West End, 6:30 p.m.- location TBD.

VII. Retreat Action Items:

- A. Next steps on Draft Bylaws – deferred to March.
- B. Next steps on creation of a Youth Sports Advisory Board - deferred to March.
- C. Other Items for discussion.

VIII. Reports From Commissioners (verbal updates):

- A. Youth Policy Commission - Stephen (Clark) Mercer – absent.
- B. Waterfront Committee - William Cromley- absent.
- C. Youth Sports Committee - Jeffrey Murphy
- D. Four-Mile Run- Ripley Forbes
 - Chair- the next meeting of the Four Mile Run Task Force is 2/28/11.
- E. Charles Houston Memorial Project -William Cromley- absent.
- F. Freedman’s Cemetery- Bob Moir- no report.
- G. Beauregard Corridor - David Dexter- absent.
- H. ACPS & Capital Improvements - Henry Brooks (absent), Judy Noritake- no report.
- I. **Jones Point Liaison Group** – Judy Noritake
See attached JPP Liaison meeting minutes dated February 3.
 The Chair said concerns are very specific regarding fence appearance and location. VDOT and NPS will respond to outstanding questions. The group appears to be working well.
- J. Other.

IX. Agenda items for March meeting and location.

Follow-up from February: Minutes of January 20; Election of Officers; Adults Sports Advisory Board, Ft. Ward Park Discussion, Approval of the Four Mile Run Park.

X. Upcoming Meetings: List of upcoming meetings distributed at the meeting.

XI. Adjourned: 9:05 p.m.

2/17/11
PFC

**Parks Commission Consideration of Recommendations about
City Management at Fort Ward Park
a Statement by
Tom Fulton
Thursday, February 17, 2011**

First of all, thank you for allowing me to say a few words about this important issue. The Commission is to be thanked for appointing Bob Moir, Ripley Forbes and Rich Brune to the Advisory Group during its consideration of City management issues at Fort Ward. Their contribution to the effort was considerable and much appreciated. I would also like to thank the Chair, Judy Noritaki, for her recommendation to the City that ground penetrating radar be employed to learn more about the historic and cultural resources that abound at Fort Ward. This effort has proved to be extraordinarily useful.

Area citizens had been expressing concerns about city decisions at Fort Ward for months before the city council formed by resolution a citizens group to provide it recommendations about management at Fort Ward. Problems such as city work trucks parked near and on marked and unmarked graves in a so-called maintenance yard had led to ad hoc citizen meetings and attracted considerable press attention.

After a year of consideration the Advisory Group has sent to the City and City Council its recommendations. It is those recommendations that you are being asked to consider tonight.

Much has been accomplished in the past two years. The Parks Department has, for instance, revamped its picnic permitting process to eliminate instances where an application would indicate a gathering of 35 which would actually result in upwards of 900 people attending. Jim Spengler, of the Parks Department and Lance Mallamo have pledged to work closely together to solve problems that arise as a result of the joint management of the Park.

The archaeological and historic investigation at Fort Ward has led to a new understanding of the African American neighborhood that lived at Fort Ward from the Civil War to its creation as a Park in the 1960's. That community still exists in the Woods Avenue section of Alexandria near T.C. Williams High School. They have formed a non-profit descendants group to further explore and understand the cultural contributions of the Fort Ward community to Alexandria at large.

The City has undertaken an archaeological examination of areas within Fort Ward Park and is rapidly moving ahead with a much greater understanding of the cultural and historical resources of the Park. The last time archaeology was employed at Fort Ward was in 1961 when the Civil War earthen fort was first acquired by the City to prevent its loss to developers. That work led to Alexandria making perhaps one of the most significant contributions to the American Civil War Centennial.

Fort Ward preserves for all Americans the best example of the Forts built by the Union to protect Washington during the Civil War.

Now, fifty years later, the City is once again using archaeology to understand events at Fort Ward just in time for the Sesquicentennial, the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Now, the focus is not on the generals and their battles but rather on the common man whose life was so up-turned by the events of the Civil War. It was the work at Fort Ward that the National Trust for Historic Preservation cited when designating Alexandria one of its "Desirable Destinations for 2011." Alexandria is the only city with such a designation in Virginia.

Much has been done. And the City is to be commended for taking action. But much remains to be done at Fort Ward. The archaeology needs to be finished. A storm water runoff mitigation plan needs to be devised and implemented and a Park Master Plan needs to be developed for Fort Ward that emphasizes Citizen input.

On Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 5:30 PM, the Alexandria City Council has scheduled a Council work session to consider the Advisory Groups recommendations. Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks has asked Jim Spengler, Lance Mallamo and the Advisory Group to be prepared to speak before that City Council Work Session.

Fort Ward is not a Park where where citizens today can have picnics but might in the future be given up for development. It is rather a place where history resides in virtually every square foot. Those of us here tonight have an obligation to protect Fort Ward not only for our benefit and enjoyment, but to ensure that it is preserved for our children and their children, now and into the future. We must commit to work to restore Fort Ward Park to the cultural jewel it is for now and into the future.

Thank you.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
Park and Recreation Commission

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.
Mt. Vernon Recreation Center
2701 Commonwealth Avenue

SUMMARY MINUTES

Commission Members: Chairperson, Judy Guse-Noritake, Henry Brooks, Rich Brune, William Cromley, Ripley Forbes, Stephen (Clark) Mercer. **Absent:** Bob Moir, Jeffrey Murphy, Anthony Zamora, and Mollie Timmons.

RPCA Staff: Director, James B. Spengler, William Chesley, Jack Browand, Ron Kagawa, Laura Durham, Robin DeShields. **Absent:** Roger Blakeley.

Guests: Nancy Williams, Principal Planner, Planning and Zoning, Pam Cressey-OHA, and Sharon Annear.

- I. **Call to Order by Chair:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Summary Minutes from January 20, and February 17, 2011.** January 20, 2011: Ripley Forbes motioned to approve the minutes; Richard Brune seconded the motion. All were in favor, the minutes were approved. February 17, 2011-deferred to April.
- III. **Draft Waterfront Plan SAP - Released for Public Comments** – Public Hearing April 5, 2011.
Nancy William, Principal Planner addressed additional questions/comments from the P&RC, on the Draft Waterfront SAP, which was released for public comment in February. The Plan will go before the Planning Commission on April 5, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, and on May 3. The Chair will write a letter summarizing the P&RC's comments, and will attend meetings.
 - **Henry Brooks:** He has lived in Alexandria for over 40 years, 25 of them in Old Town. The objections to the plan from the Old Town Civic Association may not accurately reflect the views of families in the area with children in public schools. He supports unrestricted access along the waterfront, and having increased small-scale recreation activities.
Additional comments: 1. Robinson Terminal S., the City should not invest in more boat slips (estimates cost of \$18k per slip/per year). Expenses do not equal revenue; the City is losing money currently (public marina). He supports 85% of the Waterfront SAP; however, the City needs a financial plan for the Waterfront, and a plan for all parks in the City. RPCA is doing the best they can with allocated budget for parks, each time there is a budget gap, City cuts park funding. Further steps should be taken regarding the Old Dominion Boat Club (ODBC) parking lot. Only 20% of the ODBC members live in the City most live in Fairfax and Arlington Counties. The Chair said the City should take all steps legally available to them to address the ODBC issue.
 - 2. The City Council approved a plan in 2002 to upgrade Windmill Hill Park, and has done few of the approved improvements. Maintenance at park is deteriorated, problematic. This needs to be brought to City Council's attention in Chair's letter.
- **William Cromley:** the recent Waterfront Committee meeting was productive; there are many competing parties interested in the waterfront development. Some people want the waterfront developed as all parkland, with no commercial activity; while others favor commercial development and approval of the Waterfront SAP to pay for it. Some members of the Committee, himself included, think that a measured, well designed and master-planned increase in commercial development would add vibrancy to the waterfront that is currently lacking. Some people are concerned with potential tourist increase.

He supports the Waterfront SAP; he stated the waterfront is underutilized and not living up to its potential financially, because it is not master planned. Much of the waterfront is owned by non-public corporations, and will be developed regardless of the Plan, many people unaware of this. Regarding the ODBC parking lot, he doesn't believe in eminent domain. The Plan should go forward in order to give some direction to development along the waterfront. Commission's concerns are: that there is no loss of open space, connectivity, and having a maintenance facility along the waterfront. There should also be more access, and use of the waterfront by all City residents, not just those who live near the waterfront. Reasonable objections should be addressed, but should not hinder going forward with the plan: parking resolutions and mechanisms to direct patrons to garages and designated parking areas are needed; issue of D.C. ownership of pier head, etc. Nancy Williams, Principal Planner, P & Z said the issue regarding the D.C. pier head line, will still need to go through the regulatory process.

- **Clark Mercer:** spoke about the need to improve communication in some residential areas throughout the City regarding the waterfront planning process. He stated that often, the same groups of people attend meetings; they do not represent the entire community view. The Waterfront SAP is a major project; the City should take steps to increase communication and participation of people living beyond Old Town, i.e., those living in the West End, and possibly hold more public hearings in other neighborhoods. Throughout this process, it has been said that the waterfront belongs to everyone. The Chair and Mr. Mercer discussed drafting a letter to the Editor of the local newspapers, and the Washington Post to make the views of this Commission about the Waterfront SAP plan more widely distributed.
- **Action Item:** The Chair said that after the P&RC develops its formal comments on the Draft Waterfront (SAP) for Planning Commission, she and Mr. Mercer will discuss possibly drafting the letter(s) to the editors of papers in order to communicate status of waterfront plan.
- **Nancy Williams, Planning and Zoning -** stated that there will be two Planning Commission meetings held, one April 5, and another May 3. The Plan will then go to City Council. The public comment period will remain open for now.
- **Ripley Forbes:** commented that his main concern is the marina; aesthetically he opposes it, additionally, the City is facing a very large financial expense.
(Mr. Cromley said that it's ironic to take a parking lot away from the waterfront, but put a boat parking lot in its place. Suggest having a designated sailboat and private boat areas.)
- **Richard Brune:** Agrees with most of the Waterfront plan. He believes since the Beach Comer building is vacant, and there are no plans (or money) to fix it up within the next few years, it should be torn down (property was purchased with open space funds). If OHA wants to preserve building-they should reimburse the Open Space fund and take all responsibility for the property maintenance and security.
- **Chair Judy Guse-Noritake:**
 1. **Maintenance area needed for operations -** Entity charged with managing the waterfront needs to have the ability and resources to do a good job.
 2. **Off-leash dog area at Founders Park -** there is increasing concern about the location of this dog park, as an inappropriate use for area. Some members of the Founders Park community want it relocated. The Chair recently met with a group of dog owners from the neighborhood who use and support the dog park; the consensus was to look for a solution that would look for an alternative and hopefully larger location in the area. She will comment in her letter that as part of the Waterfront SAP, a collective effort should be made to look for a solution to this issue.
 3. **Issue concerning property purchased with Open Space Funds-** Chair-The goal is to maintain open space and public access along the waterfront, and that there be no net loss of open space, and/or in-kind replacement of any lost open space. Regarding the Old Beach Comer property, when building was purchased, the plan was to tear it down to create open space; however building was later determined as salvageable. The WF Plan designates

building for possible conversion to restaurant use. The Chair is skeptical a restaurant is economically feasible if market-rate rent is required for this waterfront property. She stated that building should be rented for not less than its fair-market-value. If the community decides the building will be used commercially, there needs to be a set timeframe for its development; building should not sit empty as a placeholder for 8-10 years.

- Commissioner Cromley asked Laura Durham, Open Space Planner, if the parcel purchased on Henry St. with open space funds is producing any income. Ms. Durham said the property is not producing a significant amount of income; however, this is a different scenario, as the building had existing tenants.
- In response to this and a question from, audience regarding possible short-term lease of the building, the Chair restated that the Beach Comer building is vacant; unusable in its current condition, and is not ADA compliant.
- **Action Item:** The Chair's letter will state that the P&RC has grave concerns about how open space funds were used on the waterfront, and what may become of open space parcels.

4. Old Dominion Boat Club parking lot: William Cromley; the parking lot that has served the ODBC on the waterfront, should it remain, will fundamentally compromise this or any waterfront plan looking to future use. Cromley said to be clear, he is against eminent domain and seizing, however keeping a parking lot at the end of King Street is not good for the City in the long run.

5. Inclusion of small-scale recreational activities along the waterfront. As previously mentioned, the P&RC would like to see a series of small-scale recreational activities: e.g., chess tables, horseshoes, etc. along the waterfront; similar to what P&Z staff observed when they took a trip to New York City and toured parks. The Chair discussed with the Arts Commission, that many of these functions along the waterfront can be artful, and also historical.

The Chair stated that many of tonight's comments about the Waterfront SAP, have already have been discussed, except for the recent marina concerns. She asked if there was a consensus regarding the economic, aesthetics of including additional private boat slips, run and managed by the City along the waterfront. Mr. Cromley clarified that he is not against commercial maritime uses along the marina. History should not be stagnant- should be more of a living waterfront.

Director Spengler said that his understanding of the Plan is that the new slips for private leaseholders shown in front of Robinson Terminal S. will only be built if there is private capital for development. Nancy Williams, P&Z- commented that when Planning and Zoning looked at the marina and did a study for pleasure boats, the study showed that the marina needed to have above 100 boats slips to be economically viable. The P&RC has emphasized that there be separation of pleasure and commercial boats. This is when they separated out the two marinas (commercial at existing marina area and private/pleasure at Robinson Terminal S. location). Pleasure boats will be financially feasible if done by a private company; this is the preferred option, but not the only option. The goal is to create a marina that can be financially sound.

Commissioner Brune- asked if the City, has considered the development taking place in Maryland, at National Harbor, and how large it will be.

Nancy Williams, P&Z - said that a market analysis was done for the marina; that shows there is a capacity for pleasure boat slips in Alexandria. Regarding the Commission's previous comments; Ms. Williams stated that Planning and Zoning has tools in place to ensure that development along the waterfront is harmonious with the surrounding area. These include: height regulations/BAR design guidelines. Additionally the Waterfront SAP also includes some guidelines; and each site would have to go through a SUP Process. Regarding parking concerns; people now understand that there are sufficient parking spaces in Old Town. What is needed is enhanced communication, through technology and way finding.

Action Item: The Chair will draft a letter, stating that the P&RC is overall pleased, with the draft Waterfront SAP, and that it will be a great asset to the City. She will also include the Commission's desire to see certain caveats/conditions included in the Plan, as discussed and noted at this and previous meetings and correspondence.

The Chair thanked Nancy Williams, Principal Planner for attending the meeting. Ms. Williams thanked the P&RC for their leadership and comments on the Draft Waterfront SAP; she said that the comments will be taken into account.

IV. Ft. Ward Park and Museum Stakeholders Advisory Group Report and Recommendations:

- Richard Brune, Ripley Forbes and Bob Moir (absent), served on the Advisory Group. (**For info. go to <http://alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=29638>**)
The Chair said that the P&RC needs to develop a consensus regarding the recommendations. City Council will hold a work session on Tuesday, March 22 at 5:30 p.m., City Hall. The Chair will speak, and will also draft a letter prior to the meeting.
- Director James Spengler asked Commissioners to review the recommendations, and costs estimates (**See table: Ad Hoc Ft. Ward Advisory Group recommendations.**) He said many recommendations have no costs, while a number of other recommendations are already being done. General Services will provide an estimate for rehabilitation of the park restroom next week (estimated cost ¼ million.) Total cost estimate for one-time expenses is \$2 million; annual recurring costs are \$78,987. Laura Durham said these estimates are in addition, to current operational/management costs. Mr. Spengler - both cost estimates (one-time and ongoing) are not reflected in the City's FY2012 budget. The Chair said a letter has already been written requesting immediate funding for FY2012 for remainder of the subsurface investigation.
- **Discussion:** The Chair and Commissioners held a lengthy discussion about the Ft. Ward Park Ad Hoc Group's report and recommendations. The Chair suggested that rather than having an individual master plan for Ft. Ward Park, that a consensus be reached that the City move forward with a master plan for all parks in the City and that Ft. Ward would comprise a stand-alone chapter. The main purpose of this is to help identify and evaluate the intensity of uses in certain parks in the City, and to help educate the community, that as uses are moved from certain parks they will move to other neighborhoods.
- **The Chair** said that over the last few years, as work has been planned and prioritized, staff has discussed doing a comprehensive master plan for large parks in City. She does not recommend doing individual master plans, due to a lack of resources, e.g. when the federal government does land use plans, they are required to be updated every 10-12 years, finding resources to do this in the city on a recurring basis will be difficult. Additionally, if individual park master plans are done, intensity of uses may just move from park to park as seen when the Ft. Ward picnic uses were reduced. Many of those large picnics moved to other neighborhoods by necessity, causing concerns in those locations. Alexandria only a handful of parks large enough to accommodate these larger events. A master plan for the large parks should include: Ft. Ward, Ben Brenman, Four Mile Run, Chinquapin, and possibly others (Brooks-Oronoco Bay). This should be done in conjunction with results of the updated Needs Assessment now underway; each park would have a chapter, with appendix of uses, to help allocate resources. Ft. Ward should be done as part of a larger plan.
- **Ripley Forbes** - felt strongly that the master plan for Ft. Ward Park should be made a priority as suggested in the Advisory Groups' report, he said that Ft. Ward is unique and special because of its historical prospective, overuse, and graves recently discovered there. Mr. Forbes stated the City does not have money to do a larger master plan. While, he does not object to doing a large master plan for all parks (estimated cost ½ million), there is substantial interest in completing a master plan for Ft. Ward (\$150,000). The recommendations from Advisory Group and related studies excluded the soccer fields.
- **William Cromley**- we should support the recommendations of the Advisory Group. He suggested using the Ft. Ward Advisory report and recommendations as a model to show City Council and residents what can be done when these types of studies are undertaken, and how a master plan for all parks would prove beneficial in other parks in the City as well as Ft. Ward. In addition, he said that the preamble for a master plan for parks should state the City of Alexandria does not have any more land left, therefore we need to increase use at large parks. Adding lighting to increase field capacity is a perfect example- it doubles field use.
- **The Chair** said that in deference to Mr. Forbes strong feelings about not delaying a master plan for Ft. Ward, she would include in her letter that there was support on both sides.

- **Clark Mercer**- He sees both sides. Mr. Forbes point of soccer fields not included. Doing planning for parks ad hoc is problematic. Need to look at holistically and citywide.
- **The Chair** said when she spoke with Bob Moir (absent). He agreed that Ft. Ward is a special place; however, it needs to be planned in context with the other parks.
- **Brune**- he agrees with the Chair that it's a combined effort, and he with agrees with Ripley Forbes that Ft. Ward due to its uniqueness should have a master plan. Do Master Plan for Ft. Ward, under umbrella of whole master plan for City, or do first.
- **The Chair** said she disagrees with doing Ft. Ward first- all should be done together. Although majority of work is done for Ft. Ward this Commission will still need to have a public hearing and community discussion and that should be done together with the other relevant Commissions.
- **Ripley Forbes**- He understands, but does not necessarily agree with citywide-master plan for large parks. He contends that Ft. Ward is different from other parks. He has two-page letter of comments (from Tom Fulton) and will submit for record. He doesn't want the City to have an excuse to do nothing until it can find funding for a comprehensive multi-park plan master plan for all City Parks (that has mostly to do with fields and lights). There were grave injustices done at this park and to the African American community that just recently came to light. This park is special historically and should be recognized-as stated in the report. Threshold issue- If we cannot do anything until a master plan is done for City; this is a prescription for delay. Go with report and let City Council make the decision.
- **Chair**- she will say the need is eminent at Ft. Ward as well as in other parks.
- **Moving ahead in the interim**: Mr. Forbes, Brune, the Chair and staff discussed that there are many recommendations that can be done, in the interim until a master plan is completed for Ft. Ward. The Chair said that in the last year, some improvements have been made without master plan. Mr. Brune said the improvements done already are acknowledged in the report.
- The Chair asked if a consensus has been reached. **Action Item**- After much discussion, a consensus was reached to see what items could be moved forward in the interim until a master plan is done for Ft. Ward.
- **Standing committee for Ft. Ward Park: Discussion:**
- **Richard Brune** said that overall, the recommendations are good. Regarding suggestion of creating a group to oversee Ft. Ward Park; he stated there is already a "Friends of Ft. Ward" group, and many other groups in existence, that will now be more vocal.
- Director Spengler commented the Friends' group is primarily focused on the Civil War history/ museum.
- Chair, there are standing commissions including P&RC; neighborhood groups, Oakland Baptist church, etc. involved who can and should work together to focus on the management.
- **Ripley Forbes**- his general opinion is that the P&RC should endorse the Ft. Ward Advisory Group's recommendations that were developed over a thirteen-month period. Regarding a special advisory group for Ft. Ward, he feels the P&RC should not take a position, but let the recommendations stand on their own merits, and let City Council decide what action to take. The Department of Recreation recommends- no position. The P&RC should not be the oversight group. Don't say no to the separate group, say it is unnecessary for City Council to formally establish, but private efforts should be encouraged and supported.
- **William Cromley**- he is not familiar enough to make decision, Ft. Ward is different-partly due to the focus on it.
- **Richard Brune**- There has been much discussion about the deplorable conditions of Oakland Baptist Cemetery. The park and graves at the cemetery have been there for over 60 years, with little effort from the families and decedents to maintain the site.

- **Chair-** as part of Retreat held March 09; we recommended ramping up “Friends of Groups” in the City. The current group is focused on history; another group if formed, could focus on cultural aspects; raising funds- do things that a 501C3 group can do. Should the P&RC encourage a friends group that has a broader viewpoint as part of the solution?
- **Action Item:** Chair, will state that while additional focus of groups that may have an interest at Ft. Ward is important as park moves forward, the consensus of the P&RC is that it is unnecessary for the City Council to formally establish a group; however, private efforts should be encouraged.
- **Mr. Spengler, Director,** RPCA said a combined staff memo will be finished tomorrow recommending to Council, that a stand-alone Ft. Ward group not be formed, due to governance issues and existing groups overlapping and conflicting with each other. More understanding is needed on what the scope of governance responsibilities is for each group. Tom Fulton, Chair Ft. Ward Advisory Group, recommends in his letter that a group is formed to oversee the implementation of recommendations. Mr. Spengler feels this is not needed and that it’s a duplicate effort. Yearly presentations to Council on progress would be better. If a citizens group is formed, it should go towards doing emerging master planning for the long-term phases. Having sufficient staff to attend frequent meetings is also a concern.
- **Chair-** it is the P&RC overall sense that the P&RC offers support for the work and recommendations in the report. Whatever tasks can proceed with no cost to the City or private contributions should be looked at.

V. **Next Steps for Creation of an Adult Sports Advisory Group** - Follow-up from February. Ripley Forbes said a preliminary meeting was held. The Chair said she has spoken with Mac Slover, RPCA Youth Sports about doing outreach to different age groups, women, etc., she asked members interested in being involved with the group to let her know.

VI. **Follow-up on Public Hearing on the Four Mile Run Park Expansion Concept Plan, 4109 – 4125 Mount Vernon Avenue:** The Chair asked if there was any discussion and for a vote- there was no further discussion. **Action Item-** Richard Brune motioned to endorse the Four Mile Run Park Expansion Plan. Ripley Forbes seconded the motion. All were in favor- the motion passed.

VII. **Vote on Officers for Coming Year (Follow-up from February):** This is a follow-up item from February-no quorum. The Chair asked if there were any additions to the slate of officers- there were none. **Action Item:** Ripley Forbes motioned to approve the slate of officers as nominated. William Cromley seconded the motion. All were in favor. Nominated approved officers: Judy Guse-Noritake, Chair; Bob Moir, Vice Chair; and Richard Brune, Secretary.

VIII. **Division Updates:** To View Full Staff Reports go to www.alexandria.gov/Recreation/Commission reports.

- A. **Recreation Programs and Services Update** - William Chesley- See Staff Report
 - Additional discussion: Mac Slover, Director Youth Sports asked him to mention:
 - 1. Alexandria Little Baseball history made, Friday, April 1 at Ben Bren Baseball Field when they hosted the inaugural little league game under the lights at 6:30 p.m. Event was a tribute to all those who supported the City’s field upgrade project which brought lights to the little league field for the first time. Many people and officials were on hand to support the event.
 - 2. Little League game, April 9, at Simpson Stadium.
- B. **Operations & Park Planning Monthly Report** – Roger Blakeley (absent). See Staff Report – no questions or comments.
- C. **Office of the Arts Update** –See Staff Report by Alisa Carrel.
- D. **Park Planning Updates-** Ron Kagawa – See Staff Reports
 - i. **Divisional Updates-** no comments.
 - ii. **Citizen Request Process** -See Staff Report- new process developed to accept citizen’s requests for capital projects: establish priorities for budget. Twice a year RPCA will accept applications for work. The P&RC will be asked to review projects by Planning District. Large projects will go to City

- Council first for approval. Director Spengler said all CIP projects will be brought before the P&RC for comment and review to help determine priorities. Note: corrections to dates Pg. 2- Submission Deadlines (change from Nov. to Oct.), Review Cadence Dates (change date from Dec. to Nov.)
- iii. **Aquatics Master Plan-See Staff Report-** Aquatics master plan being reviewed by three firms: Kimberly-Horn/Cousilman-Hunsaker and Brailsford & Dunlavey. Will look at current City aquatic facilities and what City needs and future investments are in order for the City to be competitive. Staff and consultants will look at other similar jurisdictions to benchmark. It will be a two-phase process. Consultants will meet with staff and user groups the last week of March.
 - iv. **Needs Assessment-** Laura Durham report that the RPCA staff is working with a consultant firm Leisure Vision on a final draft survey (See Staff Report and draft survey.) The survey will be mailed to 3000 city residents in April. Results will be benchmarked with last report (2002), other jurisdictions, and certain national standards. Discussion: Ripley Forbes- said many of the survey questions are not actionable. He made several suggestions: 1. that questions be sharpened and better defined; 2. that demographics information be moved to beginning of survey, to capture information early, and 3. that staff defines recreation programs up-front, as some people are unfamiliar with the City's recreation programs. Stephen Mercer-commented that some questions have multiple parts (30), takes longer than 10-20 minutes, may cause survey fatigue. Chair Noritake-said she has sent some comments to Dana Wedeles, and that a question should be added on development of new swimming pools. Ms. Durham collected completed surveys, and directed members to send further comments to her or Ms. Wedeles. Ms. Durham said that comments will be taken into consideration, however questions may not be changed, based on previous experience of consultant Leisure Vision on how best to get responses to questions.
- E. **Marketing, Public Relations & Special Events-** See Staff Report- Jack Browand noted two date corrections to his report: Kelly Cares Race is April 16; Project Discovery Walk is April 23.

IX. Director's Report- James Spengler: - See Director's Report.

- A. **FY12 Budget and CIP process review:**
 - Budget Memo- three questions: 1. Athletic Fields- once Witter and Hammond fields are completed- RPCA will be four fields short of meeting current demand. There is a 6-year gap of no new fields or field conversions and that will exist for some time with the current budget situation. Potomac Yard has natural turf installed, 2. Staff was asked whether the Sheriff can provide an additional crew to assist with tree watering. The Sheriff's Office can only staff one crew and cannot expand service, 3. What was the cost of the Ft. Ward recommendations? They are shown in the report discussed at this meeting.
- B. **Jones Point Park Update:** - See Staff Report. Jack Browand reported construction activities continue on schedule. The majority of large invasive plant removal has been completed. On March 26, there will be a JPP Community Liaison Group site visit and tour, Commissioner Brooks will attend. The next scheduled JPP Liaison group meeting is Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m. at Lee Center.

X. Retreat Action Items: No Action.

- A. Next Steps on Draft Bylaws.
- B. **Other items for discussion-** the Chair commented that the P&RC has completed quite a few items from the March 2009 Retreat Action List. Mr. Cromley said more needs to be done on ACPS, RPCA school/recreation center coordination issue – See Item XI-H.

XI. Reports from Commissioners (verbal updates):

- A. **Youth Policy Commission** – Clark Mercer – the YPC has been disbanded, and a new larger youth group formed. Mr. Mercer will serve on the newly formed youth group.
- B. **Waterfront Committee** – William Cromley. As mentioned, the last meeting was very productive; the committee is in the process of making a formal recommendation on the Waterfront SAP.
- C. **Youth Sports Committee** – Jeffrey Murphy (absent). Mr. Spengler reported that a meeting will be held April 12th at Francis Hammond School. Issue being discussed has policy implications for future projects. Questions being asked: are there any conditions that can be put in place to satisfy community concerns. Staff is concerned, that if conditions are put in place, it will be more difficult to manage or make changes in the future. The Chair encouraged P&RC members who support

artificial turf and lights to attend the meeting. The ACPS and school board wants this project to go forward and there is some push-back from community. In response to concerns about adult use of field, Mr. Kagawa said there is perception, that some adults groups may bring undesirable people into the neighborhood. Mr. Mercer disagreed with these perceptions, and said that some bias may exist. Mr. Chesley, Deputy Director RPCA said some concerns deal with illegal use of fields, these concerns are being addressed.

- D. Four Mile Run – (Ripley Forbes). The Chair reported on the Joint Task Force meeting- there was a review from the technical engineers; construction sequencing was discussed. On April 2- there will be a walking tour members are invited.
- E. Charles Houston Memorial Project – William Cromley- April 2 is presentation by the four artists.
- F. Freedman’s Cemetery- Bob Moir (absent). Chair said project is moving along.
- G. Beauregard Corridor – David Dexter’s term has ended. The Chair has asked him to continue as the liaison to the P&RC. They will meet with Cathy Puskar and JBG tomorrow. John Sullivan will replace Mr. Dexter on the P&RC from District III.
- H. ACPS & Capital Improvements- Henry Brooks’ term has ended; this will be his last meeting. Judy Noritake reported- more focus needed on the schools. She currently attends all joint Council and ACPS meetings, and would welcome others attending meetings to lend support to issues. She has also been meeting monthly with John Komoroske, Chair of the Planning Commission and Yvonne Folkerts, Chair of the School Board. At a recent meeting, there was discussion about joint planning between ACPS and RPCA for new facilities. The City Manager said if they decide to do this, the City should hire one architectural team. Councilman Rob Krupicka has been supportive of collaboration on school issues. P&RC and RPCA should continue to stay on top of issues. The new schools sequence was discussed; Jefferson Houston, Patrick Henry, Cora Kelly and one yet to be named. Councilman Krupicka has pushed for Cora Kelly that there needs to be further discussion before plans are done because so many-disparate plans are in flux near this location.
 - Update Dental Clinics at school issue- no further action at this time.
 - Brooks- reported that RPCA held a dance for all ages last Friday. Mercer mentioned that he started this event when he was at T.C. Williams, H.S.
- I. Jones Point Park Liaison Group- Judy Noritake- see Director’s report Item IX-B.
- J. Other.

XII. Agenda items for April meeting and location: Next meeting is April 21.
Agenda items- Waterfront Plan Public Hearing, April 5, and Hammond School fields issue.

Henry Brooks announced he will be stepping down from the P&RC. The Chair, members and staff thanked Mr. Brooks for his service.

XIII. List of Upcoming Public Meetings- a list was distributed at the meeting.

XIV. Adjournment: 9:20 p.m.

**Parks Commission Consideration of Recommendations about
City Management at Fort Ward Park**

Statement by

Tom Fulton

Thursday, March 17, 2011

First of all, thank you for allowing me to say a few words about this important issue. The Commission is to be thanked for appointing Bob Moir, Ripley Forbes and Rich Brune to the Advisory Group during its consideration of City management issues at Fort Ward. Their contribution to the effort was considerable and much appreciated. I would also like to thank the Chair, Judy Noritaki, for her recommendation to the City that ground penetrating radar be employed to learn more about the historic and cultural resources that abound at Fort Ward. This effort has proved to be extraordinarily useful.

First off let me say I've seen the cost estimates by the city of complying with the Recommendations laid out by the Advisory Group and I would disagree with many of them. I think that sensible individuals can work out a process to work out many of the concerns without breaking the bank. My goal has been to urge the city to adopt the Recommendations and then begin working in a positive way to address the problems identified.

Area citizens had been expressing concerns about city decisions at Fort Ward for months before the city council formed by resolution a citizens group to provide it recommendations about management at Fort Ward. Problems such as city work trucks parked near and on marked and unmarked graves in a so-called maintenance yard had led to ad hoc citizen meetings and attracted considerable press attention.

After a year of consideration the Advisory Group has sent to the City and City Council its recommendations. It is those recommendations that you are being asked to consider tonight.

Much has been accomplished in the past two years. The Parks Department has, for instance, revamped its picnic permitting process to eliminate instances where an application would indicate a gathering of 35 which would actually result in upwards of 900 people attending. Jim Spengler, of the Parks Department and Lance Mallamo have pledged to work closely together to solve problems that arise as a result of the joint management of the Park.

The archaeological and historic investigation at Fort Ward has led to a new understanding of the African American neighborhood that lived at Fort Ward from the Civil War to its creation as a Park in the 1960's. That community still exists in the Woods Avenue section of Alexandria near T.C. Williams High School. They have formed a non-profit descendants group to further explore and understand the cultural contributions of the Fort Ward community to Alexandria at large.

The City has undertaken an archaeological examination of areas within Fort Ward Park and is rapidly moving ahead with a much greater understanding of the cultural and historical resources of the Park. The last time archaeology was employed at Fort Ward was in 1961 when the Civil War earthen fort was first acquired by the City to prevent its loss to developers. That work led to Alexandria making perhaps one of the most significant contributions to the American Civil War Centennial.

Fort Ward preserves for all Americans the best example of the Forts built by the Union to protect Washington during the Civil War.

Now, fifty years later, the City is once again using archaeology to understand events at Fort Ward just in time for the Sesquicentennial, the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Now, the focus is not on the generals and their battles but rather on the common man whose life was so up-turned by the events of the Civil War. It was the work at Fort Ward that the National Trust for Historic Preservation cited when designating Alexandria one of its "Desirable Destinations for 2011." Alexandria is the only city with such a designation in Virginia.

Much has been done. And the City is to be commended for taking action. But much remains to be done at Fort Ward. The archaeology needs to be finished. A storm water runoff mitigation plan needs to be devised and implemented and a Park Master Plan needs to be developed for Fort Ward that emphasizes Citizen input.

On Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 5:30 PM, the Alexandria City Council has scheduled a Council work session to consider the Advisory Groups recommendations. Deputy City Manager Mark Jinks has asked Jim Spengler, Lance Mallamo and the Advisory Group to be prepared to speak before that City Council Work Session.

Fort Ward is not a Park where citizens today can have picnics but might in the future be given up for development. It is rather a place where history resides in virtually every square foot. Those of us here tonight have an obligation to protect Fort Ward not only for our benefit and enjoyment, but to ensure that it is preserved for our children and their children, now and into the future. We must commit to work to restore Fort Ward Park to the cultural jewel it is for now and into the future.

Thank you.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 21, 2011

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: WILLIAM CHESLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: APRIL 21, 2011 COMMISSION MEETING - ITEM VII-A
RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REPORT

Youth Activities

- We postponed the Alexandria City Community Theatre Program (ACCT) production previously scheduled for May 6-7.
- Spring and summer department sponsored youth sports programs are underway. The opening ceremony for the Girl's Fast Softball Program will take place on April 27, 6:30 p.m., at the Cora Kelly softball field. We will hold our annual Hershey Track and Field event on May 21. T-ball and Coach Pitch are practicing and games will begin in May. Registration is underway for the Wahoo Swim Program, Girls Field Hockey Program and Summer Basketball League and these programs will operate during the summer months.
- The Miracle League Program's inaugural season will begin with an opening day ceremony scheduled on April 30, 2:00 p.m., at the Lee Center Field.
- We held our Alexandria Invitational Cheerleader Competition on April 9, 11:00 a.m., at T.C. Williams HS. The event attracted 1,300 spectators. Sixteen cheerleader teams consisting of 260 children competed in the event.
- We held a "Saturday Nite Hype" middle school pool party at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center on April 2. Approximately 100 children attended the event. We will hold middle school parties on May 7 and June 4.
- Division staff will offer bullying prevention programs as part of the 2011 summer program in the recreation centers.
- Alexandria's Child Protective Services Unit will conduct a refresher mandatory reporter training for Center Directors and Program Managers in May and we will schedule a similar training for Out of School Time Program staff in June.
- The Center for Alexandria's Children (CAC) held its third Annual Family on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at William Ramsay Recreation Center. We collaborated with the CAC to plan and implement the event. More than 1,000 people attended the event.

- Staff is working with a sub group of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria and with ACPS to establish smoking awareness and prevention programs for students at T.C. Williams HS. The group is also working to increase awareness of the impact second hand smoke has on others and developing strategies to educate the community about this health issue. Richard Merritt, a member of the committee, is seeking support for an ordinance forbidding smoking at public parks, playgrounds and athletic fields.
- We entered into a partnership with VeloCity Bicycle Cooperative to offer a program that will provide re-conditioned bikes to us to use to take youth on bike outings on the City's trails. VeloCity will also conduct bike safety and bike maintenance and repair classes. Youth who complete the bike maintenance and repair class get to keep the bike they repair.
- T.C. Williams HS Administration and Recreation Services Division staff decided to offer the pilot After School Program at the start of the 2011-2012 school years. The initial plan was to offer the program in March, but we did not hear back from school staff in time to start the program as originally planned.
- RPCA staff continues to meet with ARHA and others to plan the Youth Arts Festival. The date of the event is July 30, 2011.

Adult Activities

- Virginia Cooperative Extension staff is conducting a variety of ongoing Nutritional Education Programs for youth and senior adults at recreation centers, schools and the St. Martin Seniors Center.
- We held the winter adult sports playoff and championship games in March. Winter adult sport programs include volleyball (12 teams) and men's basketball (20 teams).
- Staff is planning new adult sport programs. We will provide more information on these programs later. Staff is seeking input from adults on desired programming. We held a meeting with representatives of different sport programs and organizations on March 9 to get feedback on adult programming and facility usage. New sport programs under consideration include indoor soccer, dodge ball, a coed invitational volleyball tournament, and early morning and lunchtime sport programs.
- I initiated a Senior Programming Work Group consisting of RPCA staff to review our current programs and determine how we can improve programs and services for seniors. We will meet with seniors to get their feedback and determine how we can involve them in our program planning process.

Recreation Centers

- Current YTD enrollment in the After School Program is 1,266 children. We enrolled 1,321 children in the program last year.
- We have generated \$74,815.50 from the OSTP (Power-On and Power-Up summer program and after school program) in FY-2011.
- Mid-year survey results for the After School Program reflect an overall 89.7% satisfaction rate based on 259 surveys completed by parents via survey monkey.
- Recreation center staff will implement a Junior Master Gardener Program this spring. The Northern Virginia Master Gardeners will assist staff to implement this program.

- We have begun enrolling children in the 2011 Summer OSTP. The theme of the program is “Let’s Go Green.” We developed a special summer brochure to highlight youth programs we are offering.
- Staff will introduce a new sports and fitness for children enrolled in the Power-On Program in September 2011. Staff will introduce the program as a pilot program this summer. The primary goal of the program is to engage children in physical activity each day the program is in session. The program standard is children will be engaged in 30-45 minutes of physical activity every day.
- We will open the soft playroom at Charles Houston for preschool age children in May 2011.
- We have generated \$38,903 from the fitness room fees that we implemented at the start of FY-2011.
- The Parker Gray Roundtable Group is planning a landscaping project at Charles Houston Recreation Center this spring. We will involve children from the center after school program in the project. In addition, the group is planning a community movie night at the center on June 17.
- We will not operate a summer playground program at Tancil Court this summer. We are working with ARHA to encourage parents that reside in the Tancil Court area to enroll their children in the summer program at Charles Houston. We will implement a transportation program to transport children at designated times to and from the Charles Houston Recreation Center. This will not involve extra costs, as we will build this route into the existing summer bus schedule.
- I am working with our Human Resources Department and Child Protective Services to complete the investigation of the incident involving Robert Gordon, Center Director at the Charles Barrett Recreation Center. Mr. Gordon is on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.
- The National Safe Place (NSP) training for RPCA is underway. RPCA staff will be conducting training and community outreach over the next several months. We will implement the NSP in September 2011.
- We held a Boxing Forum at Charles Houston on March 18. Nationally known boxing historian Bert Sugar participated in a Boxing Forum in the forum.

Aquatics

- Aquatics staff is planning a water safety initiative to reach children who for various reasons have not learned how to swim. We will implement the program in early summer of 2011. Staff is seeking sponsorship for the program and is planning to enlist the support of local swim team coaches and volunteers to implement the program.
- Staff is working to prepare the outdoor pools for the 2011 outdoor pool season. The Warwick and Old Town Pools will open on Memorial Day and the Memorial Pool at Charles Houston Recreation Center and Ewald Pool will open on June 27. The Memorial Pool at Charles Houston will operate extended pool hours again this summer.

Environmental Education

- Nature Center Director Mark Kelly worked with ARHA to install new fencing along the perimeter of Dora Kelly Park. ARHA paid for the fencing.

- Nature Center staff will hold a nature camp during spring break. Last year's program was a major success.
- Nature Center staff will implement a Traveling Nature Center Program in June. Staff will make regular scheduled visits to recreation centers when after school and summer programs are in session.
- Staff is coordinating a spring clean up of Dora Kelly Park with the Friends of Dora Kelly Park.
- Parents continue to take advantage of the birthday party packages at the Ford Nature Center.
- We established "Let's Go Green" as the theme for the 2011 summer programs in the centers. We have planned a variety of age appropriate activities to teach the children about environmental responsibility.

Other

- ACPS continues to evaluate the Department's annual written request to use ACPS facilities for the period of September 1, 2011 through August 31. I received notice of approval on several of the school use permits and I anticipate I will receive the remaining approved school use permits by May 2011.
- Spring and summer class registration is underway.
- The Youth Sports Advisory Board's fields subcommittee and staff continue to meet to discuss strategies to construct a Miracle Field in the City. The Therapeutic Recreation Program's Advisory Council is also involved in this effort.
- The Kelley Cares Organization held a five K Race/Walk on April 16 to benefit the Therapeutic Recreation Program. The event was very successful.
- Staff and I continue to work with Arlington County Park and Recreation staff and staff from Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) to plan and discuss strategies for managing and operating VCE sponsored and cosponsored programs. Arlington and Alexandria's Cooperative Extension Units operate under one Arlington/Alexandria Unit due to state budget cuts that eliminated full time positions assigned to the Alexandria VCE office. We are coordinating a youth gardening initiative with the Northern Virginia Master Gardeners and we expect to re-establish new 4-H programming when we fill the Alexandria/Arlington 4-H Unit Director position.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 21, 2011

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: ROGER BLAKELEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: **MONTHLY REPORT- PARK OPERATIONS- ITEM VII-B**

Mowing Schedule on 14-Day cycle

Since the budget reductions in 2008 and 2009, the mowing cycles have been reduced to a 14-day cycle. This year we started on April 18, and all areas except alleys will be on this cycle. Alleys are done once a year. Athletic fields are done as needed to keep the sports turf playable.

Schools Mowing Change

This season the school mowing program has had a small change and is now its own cost center. The change was made to become more efficient and to have better communication with the individual schools. The program has started, and mowing of all 17 schools is on a 14-day mowing cycle.

Parks Crew gets new Uniforms

In order to have a more professional look the Parks Operations staff has gone to a new uniform style and look. See attached uniform information.

Baseball Starts

The high school and travel teams have started baseball and the diamond fields are full. The new lights at Ben Brenman have made a big difference in the program and have allowed coaches to be able to practice and have games under the lights. This has helped the youth program expand.

City of Alexandria

Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Park Operations Dress Code Policy Exhibit B

Adopted: _____

Revised: _____

Intent

The intent of this policy is to ensure that all Park Operations staff dress in suitable and professional attire that reflects a positive image of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities within our community. Uniforms and personal appearance are important; appearance reflects attitudes and work habits. Each employee must fully meet the requirements of the dress code as provided herein and prescribed in the Park Operation Dress Code Policy.



Composition of Parks Operations Staff Uniform

Long sleeve dress shirt with City legend/ insignia. One shirt will be provided by the City annually, additional shirts can be purchased by the employee; however, they must be identical to the City approved/ provided shirts.



Men's Winter Dress Shirt

Vendor: Land's End 800-587-1541

Item Numbers:

Regular Size: 071277

Regular Tall Size: 075049

Big & Tall Size: 075050

Color: Blue

Logo ID Number: 0798347K

Logo Color: Navy Blue

Women's Winter Dress Shirt

Vendor: Land's End 800-587-1541

Item Numbers: 3888238

Color: Light Sea Blue

Logo ID Number: 0798347K

Logo Color: Navy Blue





Long sleeve polo shirt with City legend/ insignia. Two shirts will be provided by the City annually, additional shirts can be purchased by the employee; however, they must be identical to the City approved/ provided shirts.

Men's Long Sleeve Polo

Vendor: Land's End 800-587-1541

Item Numbers:

Regular Size: 029396

Big: 029397

Color: True Blue

Logo ID Number: 0798347K

Logo Color: Navy Blue



Women's Long Sleeve Polo

Vendor: Land's End 800-587-1541

Item Numbers: 029406

Color: True Blue

Logo ID Number: 0798347K

Logo Color: Navy Blue



Short sleeve shirt with City legend/insignia.

Three shirts will be provided by the City annually, additional shirts can be purchased by the employee; however, they must be identical to the City provided shirts.



Dry Lite Colorblock T-Shirt

Vendor: Land's End 800-587-1541

Item Numbers:

Regular Size: 029396

Big: 029397

Color: Pewter Gray or Pistachio

Logo ID Number: 0798347K

Logo Color: Navy



T-Shirt

Vendor: Wicks Sports Lettering
703-360-2224

Color: Blue, Red, White, Black, Green, Gray.

Logo Color: White

Item: Gildan (2000) Adult Short Sleeve Tee



Polo

Vendor: Wicks Sports Lettering
703-360-2224

Color: Blue, Red, White, Black, Green, Gray.

Logo Color: White

Item:

Gildan (3800) Ultra Cotton 100%

Ringspun Cotton Pique Knit Polo

Gildan (2800) 100% Cotton Jersey Knit Polo

Outer Banks (6091) Men's Egyptian

Diamond Knit Polo

Outer Banks (6093) Men's Egyptian

Diamond Knit Intarsia Polo



Jackets. One Jacket will be provided by the City every three years, additional jackets can be purchased by the employee; however, they must be identical to the City approved/provided jackets.



3 in 1 Winter Jacket

Vendor: Land's End 800-587-1541

Item Number:

Men's Regular: 393803N75

Men's Big: 393804N07

Women's: 393801N74

Color: Charcoal/Black

Logo ID Numbers:

Outer Jacket Left Chest: 0798317

Outer Jacket Sleeve: 0798328

Inner Fleece Jacket Chest: 0798347



Pants. Four pants will be provided by the city upon initial employment. Additional pants can be purchased by the employee; however they must be identical to the City approved/provided pants. Pants are to fit snug around the waist and may be worn no longer in length than the employees height. Two additional pants will be provided per year.

Shoes. Staff receive at least one pair of shoes per year. Cost not to exceed \$100 per person for selected shoe type



Pants

Vendor:

American Uniform Sales
Shashi of America Uniform Pants

Item Number:

74251

Color:

Khaki or Navy

Address:

5601 C. General Washington Dr.
Alexandria 22312

Phone:

703-941-9382

Website:

americanuniform.com



Shoes

Vendor:

Saf-Gard
Veteran Shoes
Red Wing

Hat. Each field staff person will receive one city issued hat. Additional hats may be purchased by the employee; however, they must be identical to the city issued hats.

ID Badge. Each employee will be issued one ID badge with their picture, job title and city insignia. ID cards will be issued at the new employee's orientation by the personnel department.



Therma Check Hat

Vendor:
Land's End 800-587-1541
Item Number:
251186
Color:
Black
Logo Color: White



Coveralls. Each employee will be issued one winter weight and two summer weight coveralls upon initial employment with replacement once every three years.

Vendor:
Item Number:
Color:
Logo Color:

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 21, 2011

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: ALISA CARREL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: **APRIL 2011 COMMISSION MEETING, ITEM VII-C
UPDATE ON THE OFFICE OF THE ARTS AND ARTS COMMISSION
ACTIVITIES**

Please see Attachment:
OFFICE OF THE ARTS MONTHLY STAFF REPORT – APRIL 2011.

**OFFICE OF THE ARTS MONTHLY STAFF REPORT
APRIL 2011**

GRANTS PROGRAM:

Alexandria Commission for the Arts Grants Program

Team Lead: Cheryl Anne Colton

Status: The Public Hearing/Formal Action meeting was held on Tuesday, March 15. Conditional awards for Fiscal Year 2012 were appropriated to 27 grant applicants in the amount of \$184,937 (Pending \$179,937 City and \$5,000 Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) Funds).

Fiscal Year 2012 grant awards will be confirmed at the Arts Commission's May 17 meeting. This confirmation will include the actual City funds that were approved, however, will not include the VCA funds. The VCA will approve its budget in mid-June.

Grantees will receive notification of the pending grant awards at the Fiscal Year 2012 Grant Recipient Recognition and City Galleries Artists reception that is scheduled for May 23, beginning at 5:30 pm in Room 2000, 2nd floor, City Hall. Once the Office of the Arts receives notification about the Fiscal Year 2012 Local Government Challenge Award, award letters will be sent to grantees.

Important Date(s): **City Budget Approval, May 2; and Grant Recipient Recognition and City Galleries Reception, Monday, May 23, 5:30 pm, Room 2000, City Hall.**

PUBLIC ART POLICY:

Team Lead: Alisa Carrel

Status: Meetings with Council members, developers and arts community continue. Public Art Committee is reviewing latest draft. The policy will be discussed in more detail at the April Arts Commission meeting. It is anticipated that the Public Art Policy will go to Planning Commission on May 3 and City Council on May 10 with a public hearing for May 14.

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:

BRAC – Art Wall and Sculpture

Team Lead: Alisa Carrel

Status: The proposals were on display at the William Ramsay Recreation Center from March 24 – April 1. The artist interviews/presentations that were scheduled for April 1 were canceled due to negative press and a statement released by Congressman Jim Moran. Pat Miller, Matthew Harwood and Alisa Carrel met with Don Buch and David Dexter of the BRAC Advisory Group to discuss their opposition to the project. They expressed that they are not opposed to the public art but wanted more involvement in the project and more information on the process. Buch and Dexter invited Miller, Harwood and Carrel to attend the next BRAC Advisory Board meeting on April 27 to review the process with their members. The final four artists are, in alphabetical order: Linda DePalma, Baltimore, MD; Cheryl Foster, Temple Hills, MD; Heidi Lipmann, Smithsburg, MD; and Deirdre Saunder, Potomac, MD. We are awaiting word from The US Army Corps of Engineers on when/if the project will proceed.

Police Memorial

Team Lead: Alisa Carrel

Status: A second meeting was held on March 28. Pat Miller, Matthew Harwood, Alisa Carrel, the Chief of Police Earl Cook, and approximately 10 other representatives of the Alexandria Police Department (APD) were in attendance. The group decided to provide the APD with an additional week to view the maquettes and poll the APD members on their favorite proposal. This took place at the Police facility on Eisenhower Avenue March 30 – April 6. The Alexandria

Police Department received significant employee input on the proposals and on April 11, 2011, voted to endorse the Selection Panel's recommendation. The Memorial has been docketed for the City Council meeting on April 26, 2011.

Important Date: City Council Meeting, April 26, 2011, 7pm, Council Chambers, City Hall.

Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial

Team Lead: Alisa Carrel

Status: Artists Presentations/Interviews were held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center on April 2. A public reception was held that evening, 6pm – 7pm to honor the artists and provide an opportunity for the public to meet the artists and view their proposals. Approximately 60 people attended this meeting. The maquettes are on public display at the Charles Houston Recreation Center until May 2 when they will be moved to City Hall and will remain on display until May 16. It is anticipated that the recommendation will be presented to City Council for their vote in June.

Eisenhower Sculpture

Team Lead: Alisa Carrel

Status: No new information.

Four Mile Run Community Center (formerly called the Duron Paint Building)

Team Lead: Alisa Carrel

Status: No new information.

Nest Project

Team Lead: Alisa Carrel

Status: Currently on display at Torpedo Factory Art Center and Waterfront.

PUBLIC ART IN URBAN PLANNING:

Waterfront Plan

Team Lead: Alisa Carrel

Status: The plan is available on line at <http://alexandriava.gov/Waterfront>. The Public Art Committee will be submitting a formal letter of support to the Department of Planning & Zoning. This item will be discussed and voted on at the Arts Commissions' April meeting.

Important Date: Planning Commission to vote on Waterfront Plan, May 3, Council Chambers

ALEXANDRIA POET LAUREATE:

Team Lead: Cheryl Anne Colton

Status: The "Come Write with Me" workshops ended on March 21. Because the participants received valuable insights and learned a great deal in the workshops, they decided to continue meeting. They will be meeting Monday evenings from 7-9 pm through the end of June in the Community Arts Room. Amy Young, Poet Laureate, is unable to attend all of the sessions, however, she did promise to stop in from time to time. The writers group will invite the participants from the fall "Come Write with Me" workshops. The writers' group sessions are open to anyone who wishes to write.

During the month of April, the City of Alexandria will be celebrating National Poetry Month. The following are programs which have occurred or will be occurring before the end of the month:

- Hooray for Books presented the Magic Tree House Tour Events at Jefferson Houston School for Arts and Academics during the day and in the evening at Durant Arts Center (April 1). Over 400 attendees (150 adults/250 children) enjoyed the presentations. Attached are the summary results from audience surveys.
- Ms. Young participated in The Quill Well Poetry Festival (April 3-8) sponsored by the Seven City Arts Society. www.quillwell.com.
- Ms. Young attended "As Was Written - Original Poetry, Prose and Song" (April 9) at the Lyceum. She will meet with the producers of the event in May to explore options for future collaborations.

- Several “Come Write with Me” participants held a reading and open mic at the Del Ray Farmers Market between 9 am – 10 am (April 9).
- Commissioners and citizens will be reading in Alexandria’s neighborhood parks on Poem-in-Your-Pocket Day (April 14). Hosts/Hostesses for the day include: Margaret Wohler, 10 am, Monticello park on Beverly Drive; Amy Young, Poet Laureate, 4 pm, Charles W. Hill Park; Helenmarie Corcoran, 4 pm, Lee Street Park; and, Mark Schwartz, 4 pm, 4800 Ben Brenman Park Drive and 5 pm, Armistead L. Boothe Park, 520 Cameron Station Blvd.
- Poets are invited to read poetry, along with featured readers Amy Young, Poet Laureate, City of Alexandria and Mary McElveen, Former Poet Laureate, City of Alexandria; Shelly Bell, Spoken Word Artist; Marquis Mix, Spoken Word Artist. The free event will begin at 6:30 pm at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St, April 29.
- Amy Young, Poet Laureate will host a poetry booth and recite a poem at the Alexandria Earth Day event, Ben Brenman Park, 10 am, April 30. Participants will encourage people to write poetry about nature.

Important Date(s): Writers Group meetings, Monday evenings, 7-9 pm, Community Arts Room; Poetry Event Athenaeum, April 29; and Earth Day, April 30.

COLLABORATION:

Anti-Stigma/Mental Health Awareness

Team Lead: Cheryl Anne Colton

Status: Over 75 “*Art Uniting People*” entry applications have been submitted. Art entries will be received by the Therapeutic Recreation Program on Thursday, April 28th: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Friday, April 29th: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to assist with collecting, jurying and hanging of the show.

Former U.S. Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy will be the keynote speaker at the May 12 Lee Center event. An artists’ reception will be held in the lobby prior to the event.

Important Date(s): Receiving, jurying and hanging of show April 28 and 29, 9 am – 4 pm, Lee Center; Lee Center exhibit May 1 - June 30, 2011; Opening reception and event May 12 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Lee Center; Beatley Library exhibit July 1 through January 2012.

ARTS MARKETING INITIATIVES:

Branding Project

Team Lead: Alisa Carrel

Status: Pat Miller and Alisa Carrel are working with Belmont Design on branding the arts and creating the new web site that would combine the Office of the Arts and the Arts Commission’s web sites. Current marketing information is being collected for Belmont Design.

Kaleidoscope Festival: A second visioning session is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 5pm at the Durant Arts Center. Helenmarie Corcoran is leading this Arts Forum project which will create an umbrella festival to market the performing and visual arts’ events in the fall.

Important Date: Meeting, April 18, 5pm, Durant Arts Center

Youth Arts Festival

Team Lead: Cheryl Anne Colton

Status: The Youth Arts Festival is set for Saturday, July 30, 2011. The Festival is featured on the back cover of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities’ Spring/Summer brochure. A “call for artists” will be distributed in April. Briana Radomsky, intern, spring/summer, will assist with the planning efforts for this year’s Youth Arts Festival. Interested commission members are invited to attend the next planning meeting.

Important Date: Planning Meeting, Thursday, May 5, 10 am, Durant Arts Center; Youth Arts Festival Saturday, July 30, 2011, Buchanan Park, located behind Jefferson Houston School for Arts and Academics.

CITY GALLERIES PROGRAM:

Call for Artists/Placements

Team Lead: Cheryl Anne Colton

Status: Since the January Commission meeting, the spring interns helped install artwork at eight City Galleries (see calendar for artist list and locations). A summer intern, Sarah Applegate, is secured. She will assist with the placement of artists, securing of letter of agreements and hanging of shows in the 15 City Galleries.

Nihal Kececi will host an artist reception at the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library on Thursday, May 12, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

Important Date: Nihal Kececi, Artist Reception, Thursday, May 12, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Internship Program

Team Lead: Cheryl Anne Colton

Status: The three spring interns will complete their internships by the end of April. Four spring/summer interns are secured. See listing of interns and project assignments attached.

RESEARCH:

Local Arts Index

Team Leads: Alisa Carrel and Cheryl Anne Colton

The spring interns have been finishing the Arts Education and Nightlife indicators. It is anticipated these indicators will be finished by the end of April.

Arts and Economic Prosperity IV Study

Team Leads: Alisa Carrel and Cheryl Anne Colton

At the April 12 meeting, the members reviewed an overview of deadlines for both research projects. Arts organizations are distributing the audience surveys.

Important Date: Arts Research Meeting, Tuesday, May 10, 1 pm, Durant Arts Center.

Submitted by Alisa Carrel and Cheryl Anne Colton

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CALENDAR [April/May 2011]

Kaleidoscope Festival Meeting

Monday, April 18, 5 pm, Durant Arts Center

Arts Commission Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 19, 7 pm, Durant Arts Center

Alexandria Arts Forum Meeting

Thursday, April 28, 12:00 pm, Durant Arts Center

Charles Hamilton Houston Memorial Public Art Project Public Hearing

Thursday, April 21, 7 pm-9 pm, Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St.

Arts Research Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 1 pm, Durant Arts Center

Youth Arts Festival

Thursday, May 5, 10:00 am, Durant Arts Center

Public Art Committee

Wednesday, May 11, 6:45 pm, Durant Arts Center

Nihal Kececi, Artist Reception

Thursday, May 12, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library

“Art Uniting People” Opening Reception and Event

Thursday, May 12, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Lee Center

Alexandria Commission for the Arts Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 7 pm, Durant Arts Center

Alexandria Commission for the Arts Reception for Grant Recipients & Art in City Hall

Monday, May 23, 5:30pm, Room 2000, City Hall

Alexandria Arts Forum Meeting

Thursday, May 26, 12:00 pm, Durant Arts Center

City Galleries:

Mayor’s Gallery, Room 2331: Del Ray Youth artwork, through July 2011.

City Manager’s Conference Room, 3550: Geneviene Lynn, Chinese brush painting, through July 2011

Planning and Zoning Department, Room 2100: Nina Tisara and Steven Halperson, photographs, through July 2011

T&ES, Fourth Floor: Nataliya Gurshman, paintings, through July 2011

City Hall Employee Lounge, 5th Floor: Veronnica Barker-Barzel, paintings, through July 2011

Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library: Nihal Kececi, paintings through July 30, 2011; Trish Palasik, Sculptures, through July 2011.

Durant Arts Center: Roger Blakeley, through June 30, 2011, Community Arts Room.

Lee Center Gallery: 2nd Floor: RPCA Administrative Offices, Anmarie Coolick and Brian Kelley, through July 2011.

INTERNS – SPRING/SUMMER 2011 – Updated 04/14/11

Sarah Applegate, May 16 – August 13, 240 hours. She is seeking a BA Fine Arts Degree, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX. Ms. Applegate will assist with the City Galleries program. She will secure letters of agreements and hanging shows for the City's 15 galleries. In addition, she will help with coordinating the submissions for the Freedmen's Cemetery; assist with the Police and Charles Hamilton Houston Memorials as needed; and will work with the other interns on the Local Arts Index and Arts and Economic Prosperity IV studies.

Briana Radomsky, May 23 –early August. (Mon, Tues & Wed, 10 am- 3pm) Briana is seeking a BA, International Studies and Spanish, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA. Ms. Radomsky will assist with coordinating the planning efforts for the 2011 Youth Arts Festival. She will also assist Ms. Applegate with the City Gallery program. She will also work with the other interns on the Local Arts Index and Arts and Economic Prosperity IV studies.

Ethan Roberts, May 16 – August 13, 240 hours. Ethan is seeking a BA in Film Production, with a Minor in Arts Management from Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH. Ethan will assist with the planning efforts for the 2011 Film Festival including researching funding options, assisting with coordination of film entries and selection process. He will also work with the other interns on the Local Arts Index and Arts and Economic Prosperity IV studies.

Katharine Roman, May 16 – early August, (hours TBD). BA Communications (Public Relations and Graphic Design, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. Ms. Roman will work with Ethan Roberts on the 2011 Film Festival, and will also design brochures for the Durant Arts Center and the Office of the Arts. She will also work with the other interns on the Local Arts Index and Arts and Economic Prosperity IV studies.

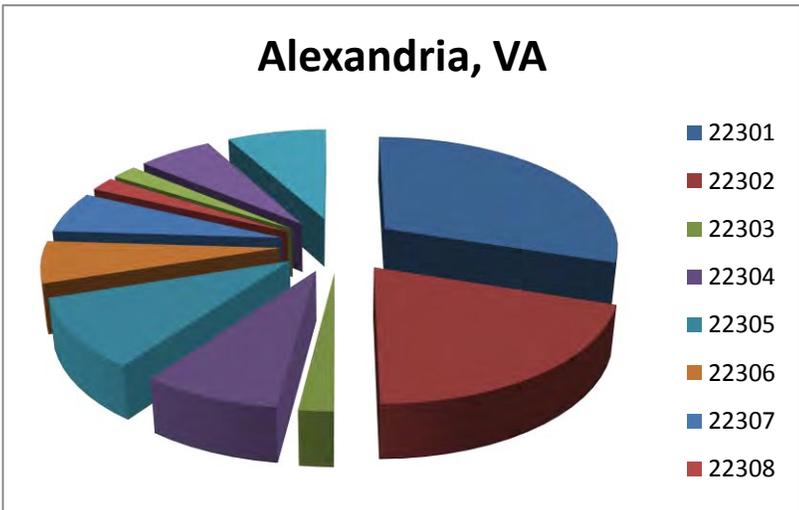
Summary of Audience Surveys Magic Tree House Event, April 1, 2011

Total number of attendees: 400 (150 adults/250 children)
 Total number of surveys received: 77 (adults completed)
 Audience Response Rate: 38%

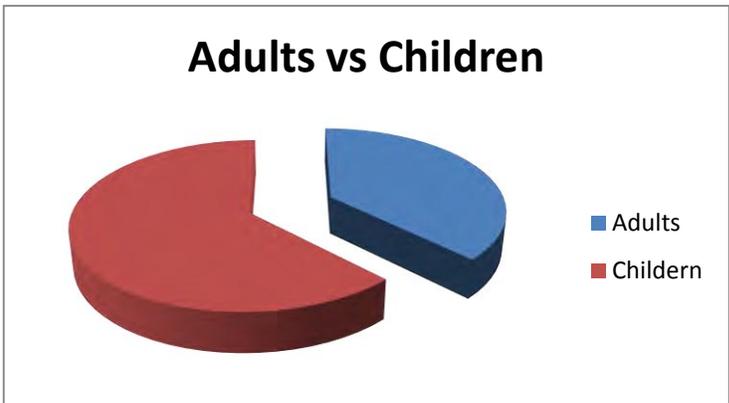


Slippy Rock, PA:	1%
Virginia Other:	10%
Maryland:	16%
Arlington, VA:	4%
Fairfax, VA:	19%
Alexandria, VA:	50%

Breakdown of Audience Members from Alexandria, VA only

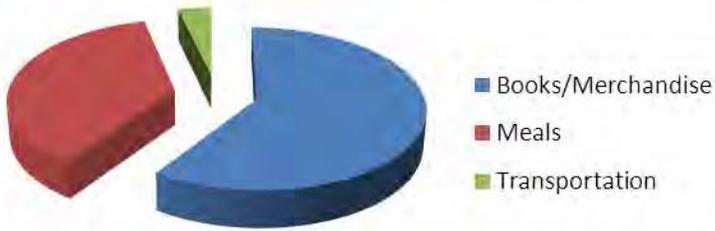


22301:	15%
22302:	10%
22303:	1%
22304:	1%
22305:	4%
22306:	3%
22307:	5%
22308:	3%
22309:	3%
22311:	3%
22314:	4%



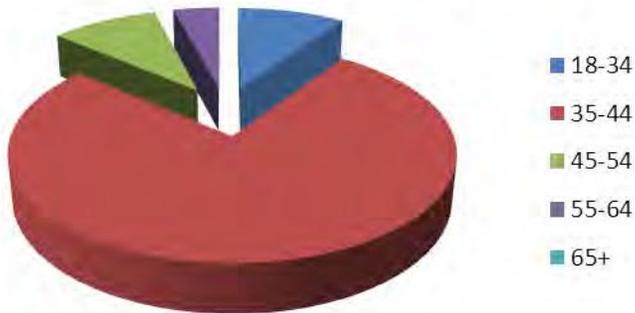
Adults: 150	Children: 250
Ratio Adult to child: 1 Adult per 1.6 children	

Spent because of Event



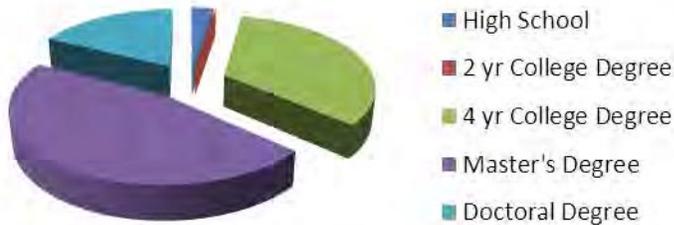
Books/Merchandise:	\$ 2,092
Meals:	\$ 1,297
Transportation:	<u>\$129</u>
Total Impact:	

Age of Person Surveyed



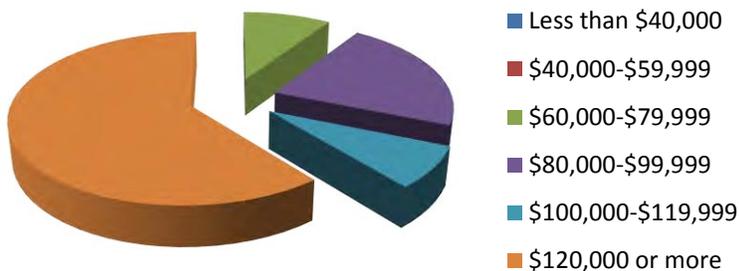
18-34:	1%
35-44:	73%
45-54:	1%
55-64:	4%
65+:	0
N/A:	21%

Education of Person Surveyed



High School:	2%
2 yr College degree:	1%
4 yr College degree:	33%
Master's Degree:	45%
Doctoral Degree:	19%

Household Income



HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
\$60,000-\$79,999:	7%
\$80,000-\$99,999:	18%
\$100,000-\$119,999:	6%
\$120,000 or more:	52%
N/A:	7%

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 21, 2011

TO: PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: PARK PLANNING, DESIGN & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
RON M. KAGAWA, ASLA LEED AP DIVISION CHIEF
LAURA D. DURHAM, CITY OPEN SPACE COORDINATOR
BETHANY A. CARTON, ASLA PARK PLANNER
JUDY LO, ASLA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
DANA W. WEDELES, PARK PLANNER

SUBJECT: **ACTIVITIES UPDATE MARCH, 2011**
OVERVIEW – SELECTED PROJECTS AT A GLANCE, ITEM –VII-Di

See Attached Project Update

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Planning and Capital Projects

Division	Project Name	Location/Sub~Project	Notes	Team	% Complete	Expected Completion
Capital Projects	ADA Requirements for Parks	Study of ADA needs	Scoping	RMK	~	~
Capital Projects	Athletic Field Improvement	Little Simpson - Lighting	The lighting replacement anticipated in Summer, 2011.	BC	~	~
Capital Projects	Athletic Field Improvements/TES	Witter Athletics	Construction is underway. Clearing and Grading is complete and earthwork operations are in progress. Anticipated project delivery Spring 2012.	RMK BC	5% CA	June, 2012
Capital Projects	Ball Court Renovations	Hammond/Tennis (3)	Working with ACPS	~	~	~
Capital Projects	Ball Court Renovations	Montgomery Park Court Lighting	~	JB	~	~
Capital Projects	Bike Trails	Forest Park Bridge Replacement	ITB Purchasing	JL	~	Late August, 2011
Capital Projects	Department Communications	~	Urban Forestry Annual Report Completed March 2011. Dog Park Brochure completed and distributed January 2011.	DW BC	~	Ongoing
Capital Projects	Dog Areas	Replace signage in all dog areas	Sign replacement underway to correct phone number and add additional codes. Signs will have QR codes added.	DW	~	~
Capital Projects	Four Mile Run Park and Stream Restoration	In-Stream Restoration	90 % Design anticipated complete in May 2011. Construction staging locations being determined. Construction commencement anticipated in Summer, 2012.	DW, RMK	ongoing	1-Jul
Capital Projects	Ft Ward Park	~	City Council work session held on March 26 to discuss the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group. Ongoing interdepartmental work on management planning and expected funding to OHA in FY2012 for Phase II archaeology work. No current RPCA funds for master planning.	LD	~	~
Capital Projects	Irrigation	Irrigation Study	RFP pending internal training with Rainbird personnel.	RMK	~	~
Capital Projects	Open Space	1 & 7 East Del Ray	Contract awarded to Avon, March 2011. Construction to begin early May. Late summer delivery	JL, LD	~5%	~Late Summer 2011
Capital Projects	Open Space	Four Mile Run Properties	Park Plan approved by PRC in March 2011. Arlandria Action Plan group recommended reallocation of funding to complete phase I of plan in summer/fall 2011.	LD	~	~
Capital Projects	Park Facilities (CFMP)	Ben Brenman - Lighting	Replace 13 lights; Estimates to be finalized.	JL WP	~	~
Capital Projects	Park Facilities (CFMP)	Four Mile Run Lights Replacement	Complete.	RMK, BC	100%	1-Apr
Capital Projects	Park Facilities (CFMP)	Little Simpson - outfield fence replacement	Purchase Request Submitted. Installation is scheduled for July.	~	~	~
Capital Projects	Playground Renovations CFMP	Armistead Boothe	Site Survey in progress. Partially funded by restaurant depot	JL LD RMK	0% DD	Spr 2012
Capital Projects	Playground Renovations CFMP	Hooffs Run	Begin process/coordination with Rosemont Civic/Community February 2012.	JL LD RMK	0% DD	Fall 2013
Capital Projects	Playground Renovations CFMP	Mount Jefferson	Begin process/coordination with Mt. Jefferson Civic Association/Community late Spring 2011.	JL	0% DD	Fall 2011
Capital Projects	Ramsey House Visitor's Center Garden	~	Unscheduled Project. Garden Club of Alexandria and PZ BAR Staff project. Project scoped only. Response letter from staff to be provided August 30. MOA to be developed with Garden Club upon receipt of additional materials.	JL, RMK	~	TBD

Planning and Capital Projects

Division	Project Name	Location/Sub~Project	Notes	Team	% Complete	Expected Completion
Capital Projects	Timberbranch Park	Bridge replacement	JL to follow up on next steps	JL	~	~
Planning	ACPS/RPCA	Hammond Middle School	Synthetic Turf Field, walking track and field lights, Public meeting held 2/8 to discuss lights SUP. Follow up meeting scheduled for April 26. Turf to be installed (with or without lights in summer 2011)	BC RMK DW	Project started August 2010	2011~12
Planning	ACPS/RPCA	Patrick Henry Community	Modular classroom final site plan underway	RMK DW	complete	Fall, 2013
Planning	ACPS/RPCA/TES/GS	Facility Maintenance Agreement	Complete.	BC RB	100% document	ongoing
Planning	Adopt-a-Garden	900 Block South Fairfax Street	Coordinating MOA and plantings with community group. Meeting with residents on March 8.	DW, RMK	~	~
Planning	Aquatics Master Plan	~	Staff continues to work with the consultant team of KHI/Hunsaker and Braillesford-Dunaway. Consultant here for second site visit and stakeholder meetings May 4-5, 2011.	LD RMK	~	Spr 2011
Planning	Arlandria Implementation	~	See comments for Four Mile Run Park Expansion. 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. community building under construction beginning April 22, 2011.	LD DW	80% planning	Ongoing
Planning	Beauregard Corridor Small Area Plan	~	Ongoing staff with the developer group. Public meeting held in April by the developers focused on land use. The Beauregard Ad Hoc Group was established and continues with regular meetings.	LD RMK	90% Planning	Dec. 2010
Planning	Eisenhower	Avenue Widening	Project revised to reflect new scope from Holland Lane to Mill Road. Improvements limited to modifying intersection at Holland and Eisenhower and adding turn lanes.	BC RMK	30% Design	Tbd
Planning	Eisenhower	Park ~ ASA	Planning process for South Carlyle area underway with property owners.	BC	Ongoing	Tbd
Planning	Eisenhower	Station Square ~ Blocks 11 and 12	Plans for Blocks 11 and 12 under review by Planning and Zoning Landscape. Eisenhower Metro Station Square concept design completed internally. Coordination with the developer pending	BC	40% Design	Tbd
Planning	Freedmen's Cemetery	~	DSUP approval by planning commission on May 3 and by City Council on May 15. Final site plan #3 and 95% contract documents with review ongoing. Construction start anticipated in Spring/Summer 2012	LD RMK	Construction Documents	November, 2012
Planning	James Bland	~	Park and Recreation Commission reviewed and endorsed the public park plan for the development November, 2010 meeting. Park Phase in for final site plan review April, 2011.	LD RMK	ongoing	Ongoing
Planning	Jones Point Improvements/Renovation	~	RPCA Staff as City lead. Park construction at approximately 7.4 percent completion. VDOT/PCC Community Liaison Group site visit completed March 26	RMK BC	100% CDs	Oct. 2012
Planning	Mount Vernon Village Center	~	Project impacts adjacent Four Mile Run Park. Anticipate open space coordination with Arlandria Master Plan guidance. Ongoing negotiations with applicant.	RMK BC	10% Design	TBD
Planning	Needs Analysis and Survey	~	Surveys to be sent end of April 2011 with project analysis to be complete by May 2011.	DW, LD	10%	1-Apr
Planning	Park Standards	~	Park Planning staff continues to work on the park standards in coordination with Park Operations.	BC, JL, LD	5%	~

Planning and Capital Projects

Division	Project Name	Location/Sub~Project	Notes	Team	% Complete	Expected Completion
Planning	Parks Inventory	~	Preparatory work underway (database clean-up, zoning inventory, boundary clarifications). GIS database design expected to begin in Spring 2011.	DW, LD	5% Complete	1-Jul
Planning	Potomac Greens	Potomac Greens Park	Construction complete. As-Builts expected 2011.	BC	100% Construction	3-Jul
Planning	Potomac Yard	Landbay K	Project bid closed mid April. Construction start anticipated May 2011.	BC RMK	Construction Documents	Fall 2012/Fall 2013
Planning	Potomac Yard	Potomac Avenue	Construction ongoing. Street trees planted in installments. Anticipate completion summer 2011.	BC	60% Construction	Summer 2011
Planning	Potomac Yard	Route 1 Improvements	Phase II in 90% Documents. Design coordination with with T&ES for Phase II Mass Transit project.	BC	90% Design	3-Jul
Planning	Potomac Yard	Simpson Replacement Fields	Construction administration ongoing by RPCA staff. Field turf and site seeding complete. Utility construction anticipated to be complete early May 2011-established Fall 2011/Spring 2012.	BC RMK	95% Construction	Spring 2011/Fall 2011
Planning	Public Safety Center	~	Under construction.	RMK	30% Construction	Fall 2012
Planning	Waterfront Small Area Plan	~	Waterfront Plan discussed at a public hearing by the Park and Recreation Commission at the February meeting with continued discussion in March. Master Plan is targeted for review by City Council in May 2011.	LD LS RMK	75% Planning	Dec. 2010

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 21, 2011

TO: PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

THRU: JAMES B. SPENGLER, DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

FROM: PARK PLANNING, DESIGN & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

**SUBJECT: MASTER PLAN FOR CITY OF ALEXANDRIA AQUATICS FACILITIES
PROJECT ACTIVITIES UPDATE – ITEM VII-Dii**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on recent activities related to the Master Plan for City of Alexandria Aquatics Facilities.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES UPDATE:

During the week of March 25, the consulting team was in Alexandria over a three day period. As a part of Phase One of the study, the team interviewed staff and interested citizens, toured each of the City's facilities and those of neighboring jurisdictions and presented a record of their initial findings. Phase One includes a Needs Analysis and Financial Impact Analysis. It is anticipated that the consulting team will return for a series of work/strategy sessions on May 3-5. The purpose of the work/strategy sessions will be to review initial findings and to obtain feedback regarding preliminary planning strategy and economic proposals. A briefing to obtain feedback will be scheduled to include a range of stakeholders including members of the Youth Sports Advisory Commission and Park & Recreation Commission. Members of the Commission are encouraged to attend and engage the discussion.

BACKGROUND:

Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities is pursuing an assessment and analysis of the City's aquatics facilities as a means of establishing of a basis from which to determine future strategies for meeting community aquatics needs. This Master Plan for Aquatics Facilities will:

- A) Confirm the aquatic programming needs of the community.
- B) Verify the types and quantity of facilities to meet these needs.
- C) Evaluate the most appropriate locations for the facilities based on traffic patterns and usage.
- D) Determine the financial impact of the construction and operation costs of the facilities required to meet the needs of the City of Alexandria for the next 30 years.

BACKGROUND:

The City currently operates and maintains a municipal outdoor aquatic program that includes seven (7) aquatic facilities at the following sites: Chinquapin, Charles Houston, Old Town, Warwick, Nannie J. Lee, Nicholas Colosanto, and John Ewald. Of these pools, Nannie J. Lee and Nicholas Colosanto are currently closed due to lack of attendance. Chinquapin is the only indoor facility, however it was not constructed in a manner that can accommodate competitive swimming events. Most of the existing facilities have limited opportunities for expansion and limited parking. In summary, the existing aquatic facilities are reaching the end of their functional and physical life expectancy with facilities ages of over 25 to 30 years.

The professional consulting services of Kimley-Horn/Cousilman-Hunsaker and Brailsford & Dunlavey have been retained with AMEC Engineering as the Prime Consultant. This team brings internationally recognized expertise in aquatics facilities, facilities engineering and aquatics based economic/cost analysis to reviewing and making recommendations regarding the future of the City's aquatics programs. The team will collaborate with the Park & Recreation Commission, Youth Sports and other stakeholders to verify its findings and receive feedback on its recommendations.

A copy of the contract scope of work was provided to the Park & Recreation Commission in March, 2011. The project will be undertaken in two independent but interconnected phases. Phase One includes a Needs Analysis and Financial Impact Analysis and is anticipated to have initial findings available in May, 2011 with full completion in June, 2011. Phase Two includes a refined Needs Analysis, Conceptual Planning, Financial Impact Analysis and a Final Report with presentations to City governance including the Park & Recreation Commission and City Council during Fall, 2011.

STAFF:

- Bethany A. Carton, ASLA; Park Planner, RPCA
- Laura D. Durham, City Open Space Coordinator, RPCA
- Judy Lo, ASLA; Landscape Architect, RPCA
- Dana W. Wedeles, AICP; Park Planner, RPCA
- Ron M. Kagawa, ASLA LEED AP; Division Chief, RPCA

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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 21, 2011

TO: PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

THRU: JAMES B. SPENGLER, DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

FROM: PARK PLANNING, DESIGN & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: NEEDS ASSESSMENT- ITEM VII-Diii

ITEM:

The City Manager, Mayor and City Council have reviewed a final draft of questions for the Citywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment. Leisure Vision is now assembling the mailing packets, which include a signed letter from the Mayor, a survey, and a stamped and addressed return envelope. Leisure Vision will distribute the survey approximately two weeks from now to a randomly generated list of 3,000 Alexandria residents. The goal is to receive responses from 600 residents to be statistically accurate in the results. If the goal is not reached by mail, Leisure Vision will call survey recipients and conduct the survey over the phone.

Results will be presented to the Commission in early summer.

STAFF:

- Bethany A. Carton, ASLA; Park Planner, RPCA
- Laura D. Durham, City Open Space Coordinator, RPCA
- Judy Lo, ASLA; Landscape Architect, RPCA
- Dana W. Wedeles, AICP; Park Planner, RPCA
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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 21, 2011

TO: PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

THRU: JAMES B. SPENGLER, DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

FROM: PARK PLANNING, DESIGN & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

**SUBJECT: FOUR MILE RUN PARK EXPANSION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING
ITEM #VII-D-iv**

Improvements to the open space properties located at 4109-4125 Mount Vernon Avenue, which include the required renovations of the community building (the previous Duron Paint store) and the remaining three parcels is underway. The plan for the park expansion was approved by the Park and Recreation Commission and the Arlandria Action Plan Advisory Group recommended reallocation of dedicated CIP funds to implement the first phase of the park plan in March, 2011. The first phase includes, resurfacing of the parking lots, landscaping, and installation of a rain garden and shade structures. Construction for the community building is expected to begin this month, with a grand opening set for May 15.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Anticipated use of the community building and adjacent gathering space can provide many benefits to the community, including, but not limited to:

- Community meeting space
- Community festival area
- Environmental and Four Mile Run education facility and display area
- Art shows and markets
- Farmers' market
- Film viewing and festivals
- Small City events
- Classes and summer camps
- Professional organization meeting space

- One-time health clinics
- One-time bicycle clinics.

While the site will be open to the public similar to all city parks, the use of the building and any special events on the site will be by permit and application only. Staff is currently developing rules and regulations that would be in place prior to any public use of the building and reserved use of the site.

FUNDING:

In addition to the use of Open Space funding for the required renovations to the community building, the Arlandria Action Plan Advisory Group has recommended using funds previously allocated by City Council for improvements in the Arlandria neighborhood. Staff has requested funding for associated operational and maintenance costs as part of the supplemental budget for FY2011 and the future (FY2010 and on) City budget for operations.

STAFF:

- Bethany A. Carton, ASLA; Park Planner, RPCA
- Laura D. Durham, City Open Space Coordinator, RPCA
- Judy Lo, ASLA; Landscape Architect, RPCA
- Dana W. Wedeles, AICP; Park Planner, RPCA
- Ron M. Kagawa, ASLA LEED AP; Division Chief, RPCA

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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 15, 2011

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

THRU: JAMES B. SPENGLER, DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

FROM: PARK PLANNING, DESIGN & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: 1 & 7 E. DEL RAY AVE. POCKET PARK UPDATE- ITEM -VIID-v

In 2009, the Park and Recreation Commission approved the park plan for E. Del Ray Ave. Pocket Park. The City acquired the land through the Open Space Fund, and received extensive public input about its design during the park planning process. The approved park plan features several areas for seating, a small play area, new site amenities, and infrastructure improvements.

The park plan is now being scheduled for construction and will be implemented in two phases. Phase 1 commences Spring 2011(May), with an anticipated late Summer 2011 delivery. Phase 1 includes site grading, storm water management (including a rain garden), a play area, shade tree, restorative plantings, and a water meter. The cost of Phase 1 is approx. \$297,000 and funded with Open Space funds. A well-attended community Pre-Construction meeting was held on April 4, and a “Construction Watch” tour is also planned. Park Planning will oversee construction.

Phase 2 is not presently funded or scheduled for implementation and will require community support. Phase 2 improvements consist of a plaza seating area, tree plantings, additional site amenities, walkway extension, and irrigation. The current estimated cost of Phase 2 is approx. \$87,000.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information regarding the East Del Ray Park project is continuously updated on Alexandria’s Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities website at: www.alexandriava.gov/45884

ATTACHMENTS: Del Ray Park Phase 1 Site Improvements FAQ March 2011

STAFF:

-Judy Lo, ASLA; Landscape Architect, RPCA
-Laura D. Durham, City Open Space Coordinator, RPCA
-Ron M. Kagawa, ASLA LEED AP; Division Chief, RPCA

PHASE 1 SITE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION

- **Schedule**
 - *When will the Project Construction be completed?*
 - Project Construction is scheduled for completion in July, 2011.
 - As is typical with any construction project, this date is subject to change due to weather, unforeseen challenges, or unanticipated site conditions.
- **Contractor**
 - *Who is the Contractor responsible for construction of the Project?*
 - The Contractor is Avon Corporation, headquartered in Springfield, VA.
- **Cost**
 - *What is the cost of the Site Improvements and are City funds being used?*
 - The Contractor has been awarded the project at a base cost of \$297,000.
 - The City is funding this project through the Open Space Fund. The City acquired the property as a Pocket Park using Open Space funds in 2008.
- **Construction Activities**
 - *Will the Park be accessible during construction?*
 - No. For safety and security, the Park will be closed to the public while under construction.
 - *Who do I contact regarding construction activities or construction traffic?*
 - Contractor: Avon Corporation, Kurt Lorenz, 703-978-8300.
 - Email: klorenz@avoncorporation.com
 - *Why is the entire site being cleared?*
 - In order to remedy existing site drainage issues and irregular terrain, the improvements require extensive site work.
 - All vegetation being removed has been reviewed and approved as a part of project approval. The site will be re-planted with native species trees and shrubs as part of the completed project.
 - *I have a tree in my yard that is located along the Park property line. Will it be damaged during construction?*
 - The Contractor is responsible for avoiding damage to existing trees on the property and adjacent to the property.
 - *What are the permitted times for construction activity?*
 - All construction activities must comply with the Alexandria Noise Control Code Title 11, Chapter 5, which permits construction activities to occur between the hours of :
 - Monday through Friday from 7:00AM to 6:00PM
 - Saturday from 9:00AM to 6:00PM
 - Construction activity is not permitted on Sundays without special permit.
 - *Who is responsible for Construction Traffic?*
 - The Contractor is responsible for construction traffic management.
 - *If streets or roadways are damaged by Construction Traffic, will they be repaired?*

- If the Contractor is found to have damaged streets or public property, the Contractor will be required to make the repair.
- *If my fence or property is damaged by Construction will it be repaired?*
 - If the Contractor is found to have damaged private property, the Contractor will be held responsible for the repair.
- *Where will the Contractor park their vehicles?*
 - Where possible, the Contractor will park their vehicles within the project limits. In situations where it is not feasible, the Contractor will obtain necessary permits for on-street parking.
 - Construction equipment is to be stored within the project limits.

PARK DESIGN & MANAGEMENT

- **Park Security**
 - *Who is responsible for Park security and/or who do I call to report suspicious activity?*
 - City of Alexandria Police Department
Phone: 703.838.4444
Emergency Call: 911
 - Please help keep the Park secure during construction.
 - Please report unauthorized access, vandalism or other suspicious activity to the Police immediately. Such activities delay construction and increase public safety risks.
- **Ownership**
 - *Who owns the land?*
 - The land is owned by the City of Alexandria and is administered by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.
- **Facilities**
 - *What are the improvements being made to the park?*
 - Improvements being constructed during Phase 1 include a children's play area, site grading, a storm water management facility (rain garden), a water meter, and restorative plantings.
 - *What improvements are in Phase 2, and when will they be done?*
 - Phase 2 improvements include a plaza seating area, pathway extension, drinking fountain, landscaping, and additional benches and tables. Phase 2 is not presently funded or scheduled for implementation.
 - *Is a plan available that shows the overall improvements?*
 - A concept plan showing the overall park improvements is available at: <http://alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=18078#PocketParks>
 - *How did the design of the park come about?*
 - The approved concept plan was the result of significant public input and refinement, and was approved by the Park and Recreation Commission in 2009. Additional information about the design process can be found at:

<http://alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=18078#PocketParks>

- *Who is responsible for maintenance and management of the Park?*
 - Upon completion of improvements and acceptance of construction by the City, the City will be responsible for all maintenance and management of the Park and its facilities.
 -
- **Trash Pick-Up**
 - *Who is responsible for trash pick-up in the Park?*
 - During construction, the General Contractor is responsible for trash pick-up in the Park.
 - Upon completion and acceptance by the City, the City will be responsible for trash pick-up in the Park.

###

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 19, 2011

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF
CHERYL LAWRENCE, REGIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR
MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION - ITEM VII-E
MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION
UPDATE

JONES POINT PARK COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP SITE VISIT - SATURDAY, MARCH 26

VDOT and Potomac Crossing Consultants hosted a site visit of Jones Point Park on Saturday, March 26 at 9 a.m. The visit was limited to members of the liaison. Meeting minutes are located on the Jones Point Park information website (<http://alexandriava.gov/34692>). The next scheduled meeting of the Jones Point Park Community Liaison Group is Tuesday, May 17, Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street.

RUBY TUCKER PARK DEDICATION, 3500 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY

The Mayor and members of City Council will hold dedication ceremony for the newly named Ruby Tucker Park on Saturday, June 18 at 8:30 a.m. Staff will be manufacturing and installing a park sign and park rules and regulations in the park.

CITY MARINA DOCKMASTER HUT RENOVATION

The Dockmaster Hut at the City Marina will be complete the week of April 18, 2011. The new hut is in the same location using water tolerable products, is raised above the marina deck to facilitate natural airflow, and files and other amenities will be mobile so to be able to remove in predicted high water activity.

RPCA PARK AND FACILITY NAMING POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to establish a systematic and consistent approach for the official naming or renaming of City public parks, recreation areas and facilities. Parks, recreation areas and facilities include all property assets under City's ownership and RPCA controlled buildings,

structures, open space, public parks and natural areas. Staff is seeking the Commission's review and comment. **ATTACHED**

2011 PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION CIVIC AWARDS

The updated nomination packet for the 2011 CIVIC Awards is attached for Commission review. The Commission needs to name a subcommittee to receive and make recommendations to the Commission for 2011 recipients. CIVIC Awards are presented at the City's Annual Birthday Celebration scheduled for Saturday, July 9. **ATTACHED**

DOG PARK RULES & REGULATION SIGNS TO RECEIVE QR CODE

To assist residents with obtaining information about dog park rules and regulations, locations and other information, RPCA will be testing QR code technology. QR codes allow for individuals with smartphones to be directed to websites with additional information. Other uses under consideration are updated related to park planning activities, ticketing, history and wayfinding.



SPECIAL EVENTS & HOLIDAY CONCERT CALENDAR – APRIL/MAY 2011

For additional information, visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

April 23

15th Annual Project Discovery Walk-a-thon

Fort Ward Park from 8 am to noon

703.746.5967

April 30

Alexandria Earth Day Celebration

Ben Brenman Park from 10 am to 2 pm

www.alexandriaearthday.org

May 4

Days of Remembrance

Market Square from noon to 1 pm

703.746.5419

May 6

Spring for Alexandria

www.volunteeralexandria.org

May 15

Titan Expo

TC Williams HS from 1 pm to 5 pm

703.824.6800

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*The City of Alexandria
Park and Recreation
Commission*

Presents the

*2011 CIVIC Awards
Citizen Involved Volunteers In the Community*

Deadline: Thursday, June 9, 2011

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street · Alexandria, VA 22314
www.alexandriava.gov/recreation



2011 Park and Recreation Commission CIVIC Awards

The City of Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission announces its 26th annual awards program to select and formally recognize outstanding residents who have provided a valuable service to our community in meeting recreation, park, or cultural needs. An Alexandria group, club, organization or corporate neighbor may also be nominated for an award for such service. Nominees for the award for citizen, group, club, organization, or corporate neighbor should be volunteers who have contributed time, talent or resources in an exemplary fashion. Youth nominations are encouraged. Whether the volunteer activity involves removing invasive plants, coaching youth, or providing program support at City nature and recreation centers, the CIVIC Awards recognize the special, unsung volunteer efforts of Alexandrians involved in their community. The Park and Recreation Commission invites your help in identifying those who contribute so that they may be recognized.

Timing: The awards will be presented at the Alexandria Birthday Celebration on July 9, at Oronoco Bay Park. **Nominations must be received no later than Thursday, June 9.** Nominations should be addressed and mailed or delivered to the Park and Recreation Commission, c/o William Chesley, Deputy Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or faxed to 703.684.6826 no later than Thursday, June 9.

Selection: Selection will be made by a special committee of the Park and Recreation Commission.

Criteria: Nominees for the CIVIC awards must reside in the City of Alexandria.

Applicable Subjects: Youth sports coaches; support of recreation programs, activities or events; parks or public open space maintenance or beautification; residents serving on special study groups or projects; cultural activities; and planning of programs and activities.

Submission Requirements: Submissions **must** include the following:

1. The nominee's name, address, and telephone number(s), or the key individual to contact if a nominee is a group, club, agency, organization or corporate neighbor.
2. Name, address, and telephone number of the person nominating the candidate.
3. A brief description (not exceeding one page) of the nominee's accomplishments and qualifications for such an award.

To submit a nomination on-line, visit <http://www3.alexandriava.gov/forms/recreation/civicawards>

For more information, call the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities at 703.746.4343.



2011 Park & Recreation Commission CIVIC Awards

Name of Nominee: _____

Are you submitting this nomination for a:

- Citizen (Individual) Award
- Group, Club, or Organization Award
- Corporate Neighbor Award

If nominating an individual for a Citizen Award:

Nominee's Address: _____

Nominee's Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

If nominating a Group, Club, Organization or Corporate Neighbor Award:

Name of Group, Club, Organization or Corporate Neighbor: _____

Name of Key Contact Individual: _____

Contact's Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Person submitting this nomination:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Complete or attach a brief description (not to exceed one page) of the nominee's accomplishments and qualifications for this award.

Applications are due by Thursday, June 9, 2011, and may be submitted:

1. Online at <http://www3.alexandriava.gov/forms/recreation/civicawards>
2. Faxed to Attn.: William Chesley at 703.684.6826
3. By Mail or In Person:

Park and Recreation Commission
c/o William Chesley, Deputy Director
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



Brief Description:

DRAFT



City of Alexandria
Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Policy for Naming and Renaming City Parks, Recreation Areas and Facilities

PURPOSE

- To establish a consistent approach for the official naming or renaming of City public parks, recreation areas and facilities.

OBJECTIVE

- Ensure parks, recreation areas and facilities are easily identified and located;
- Ensure that given names to parks, recreation areas and facilities are consistent with the values and character of the area or neighborhood served;
- Encourage public participation in the naming, renaming and dedication of parks, recreation areas and facilities; and
- Encourage the dedication of land, facilities, or donations by individual and /or groups.

DEFINITION

- Parks, recreation areas and facilities include all property assets under the City's ownership and the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities control including buildings, structures, open space, public parks, natural areas, wetlands, and environmental habitat.

CRITERIA

Naming of Parks, Recreation Areas and Facilities

- City parks, recreation areas and facilities shall generally be named in accordance with geographical, historical or ecological features indigenous to the park site or to the immediate vicinity of the site.
- Parks, recreation areas and facilities may be named for an individual under the following conditions:
 - Where the individual has made a significant gift of land to the City; or
 - In memoriam for an individual who has made a significant contribution to the City of Alexandria park and recreation system. *It should not be assumed that a financial contribution guarantees that a park, recreation area or facility is named after the individual/organization/business making the contribution;* or
 - Has made a significant contribution to the protection of natural, cultural, or horticultural resources of the City of Alexandria park and recreation system; or
 - Has substantially contributed to the advancement of commensurate types of recreational opportunities within the City of Alexandria park system; or

- Has made a significant contribution to the betterment of a specific park, consistent with the established criteria and standards for the designated park classification.
- Parks and Recreation facilities will not normally be named for living persons. Exceptions to this policy may be made by simple majority vote of City Council as follows:
 - The person nominated had made a substantial contribution (monetary or service) to the specific park, recreation area and facility being named; or
 - The person nominated has made significant contribution to the community over an extended period of time; or
 - The person nominated has received national recognition.
- Facilities and recreation areas located within a park should carry the same name as the park. Such facilities or recreation areas could, however, be dedicated in memory of a person and an appropriate plaque indicating such be dedicated and placed at the facility or recreation area.

Renaming of Parks, Recreation Areas and Facilities

- The above stated criteria are met;
- A valid justification for the renaming of a parks, recreation area or facility is provided;
- Changing the name will not cause undue confusion with the community; and
- An appropriate level of community support exists

PUBLIC PROCESS

1. An individual or group submits a letter of recommendation to the Director of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities providing documentation of meeting the criteria as established within this policy. Naming recommendations for a living person will be forward to City Council as stated above.
2. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will hold an open public comment period of not less than two weeks and not to exceed thirty days.
3. At the closing of the public comment period, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will coordinate with the Office of the City Manager a meeting of the City's Naming Committee. *The City's Naming Committee is comprised of the City Manager and two members of City Council.*
4. The City's Naming Committee will receive the letter of recommendation, public comment and testimony from the nominator or designee. The City Naming Committee will make a recommendation to City Council.
5. City Council will receive the recommendation of the City's Naming Committee and set the recommendation for City Council Public Hearing.
6. City Council will make an official decision following the City Council Public Hearing.

Reviewed & Commented: April 19, 2011, City of Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 18, 2011

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

THRU: JAMES B. SPENGLER, DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

FROM: PARK PLANNING, DESIGN & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

SUBJECT: POTOMAC YARD REPLACEMENT FIELDS UPDATE – ITEM VIII-A

Construction of the Potomac Yard Replacement Fields continues to move toward completion. Miscellaneous improvements, including final grading and landscape improvements are anticipated to be complete in April.

Construction on the replacement fields at Potomac Yard Park/Simpson restarted in late March with the return of favorable weather. The fields were sodded in March and the remaining construction items including irrigation, fencing and landscape improvements are in progress. The developer, Potomac Yard Development, has indicated that construction should be complete late April. Once construction is complete, the fields will be maintained by Potomac Yard Development to allow the vegetation to establish. The City anticipates reviewing the fields in the fall to ensure the turf is established prior to accepting the fields for use.

The existing interim fields east of Route 1 will remain in use until the final fields adjacent to Simpson Park are accepted. The parking lot at the existing interim fields was restriped in March in preparation for the spring season.

Final improvements including fine grading and seeding of the area returned to the Simpson Dog Park adjacent to the final fields is scheduled for April.

Additionally, the City Arborist Office is coordinating the installation of 10 additional trees in Simpson Park adjacent to the Little League field. The trees locations will be determined with input from the neighbors.

STAFF:

-Bethany Carton, Park Planner, RPCA

-Laura D. Durham, City Open Space Coordinator, RPCA

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 21, 2011

TO: PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: PARK PLANNING, DESIGN & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM
RON M. KAGAWA, ASLA LEED AP DIVISION CHIEF
JACK R. BROWAND, CPRP DIVISION CHIEF

**SUBJECT: JONES POINT PARK – ITEM VIII-B
UPDATE MARCH-APRIL, 2011**

The purpose of this update is to provide an overview of activities related to Jones Point Park construction for the months of March-April, 2011. The Commission will be similarly updated at its regularly scheduled meetings until completion of construction-which is anticipated in June, 2012.

**VDOT-COMMUNITUY LIAISON INFORMATION GROUP
MARCH 30, 2011; SITE VISIT**

The VDOT-Community Liaison Information Group toured the Jones Point Park Construction site on Saturday; March 26, 2011. The purpose of the site tour was to provide liaison group members with an up-close briefing of ongoing construction progress. The meeting was hosted by VDOT and supported by staff of the National Park Service and Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities. Because the site-visit occurred on an active construction site, safety gear including hardhats and construction vests were provided to each attendee as a requirement of participation. See attached memorandum.

VDOT-COMMUNITUY LIAISON INFORMATION GROUP

To ensure that construction activities continue with little disruption, and to provide a forum for open dialogue with the surrounding community, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), with participation of the National Park Service and City of Alexandria, has created a Community Liaison Information Group on Jones Point Park Construction. The group is comprised of a representative from resident groups that may be most impacted by ongoing work at Jones Point Park.

The Community Liaison Information Group will meet quarterly to discuss the project and to allow for members to ask questions and to be briefed on ongoing work. The meetings are open to the public and include representatives from the project's managing parties - VDOT and the National Park Service, as well as staff from City of Alexandria. Members of the Liaison Group have been identified as direct points of contact for gathering information on neighborhood concerns or questions, and will have direct contact to VDOT to address such items as they arise. The next meeting of the Jones Point Park Construction Community Liaison Group is scheduled for Tuesday; May 17, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street.

ADDITIONAL & FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION

Information regarding Jones Point Park construction is continuously updated on Alexandria's Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities department website at <http://alexandriava.gov/recreation> and VDOT's website for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project at <http://www.wilsonbridge.com/>. These links include information regarding community meetings, construction updates and other information and resources including how citizens may stay informed by subscribing to E-News or other advisories. The Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities website includes a continuously updated overview of construction activities for a three week look-ahead schedule of anticipated work. The April 7, 2011 "Construction Schedule at a Glance" is attached below.

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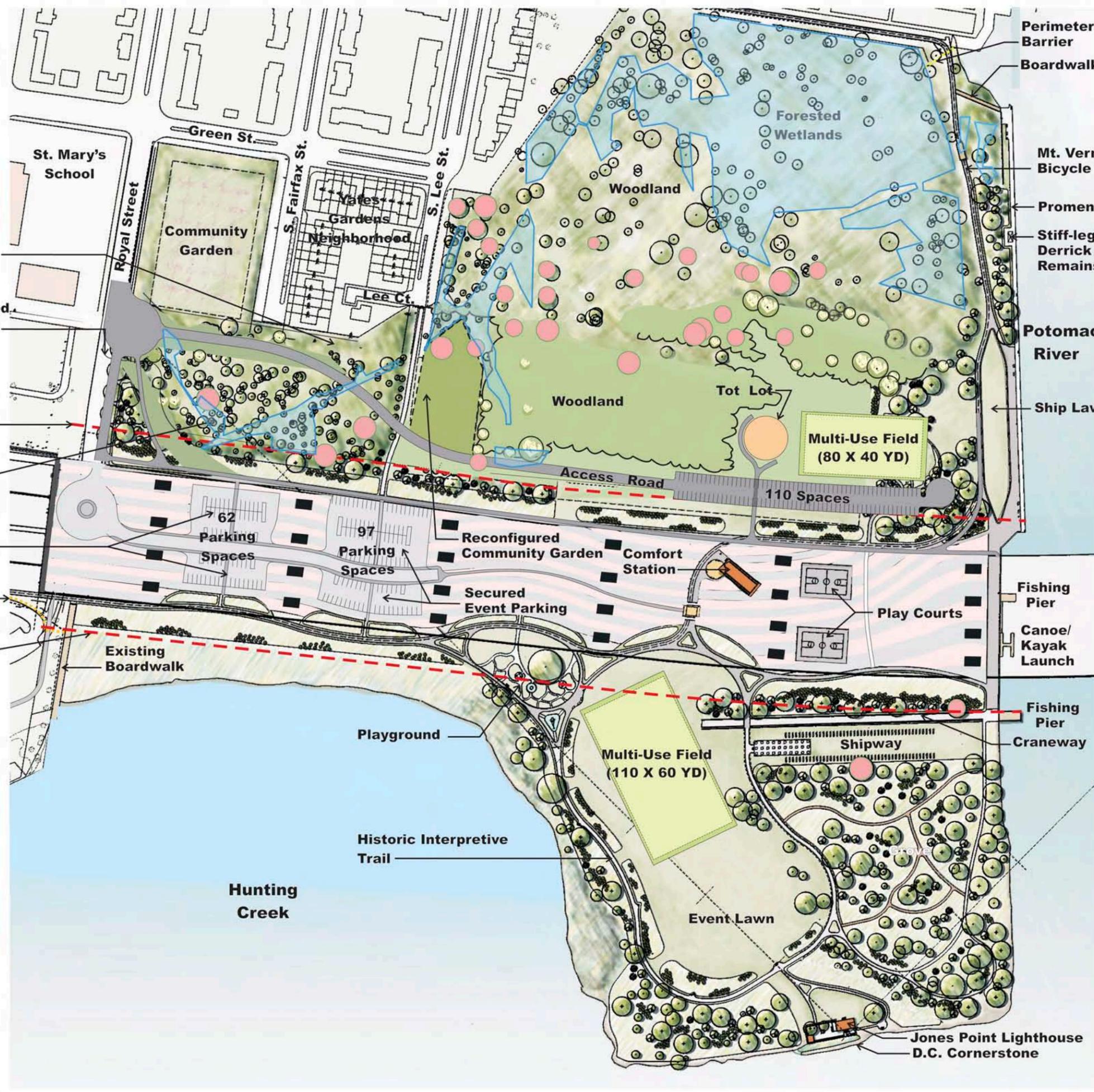
**Total Parking
Spaces: 110
(With
Special Event
Parking: 240)**

Visual Screening
Area for Relocated
Recycling Center

80-foot Stand-off
Distance
Forested
Wetlands

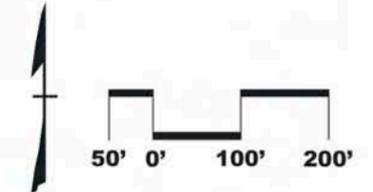
Secured
Event Parking

Perimeter
Barrier
80-foot Stand-off
Distance



Perimeter
Barrier
Boardwalk
Mt. Vernon
Bicycle Trail
Promenade
Stiff-leg
Derrick
Remains
Potomac
River
Ship Lawn

● 24 Inch, or larger, DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) Tree identified in the October 2000 Jones Point Park Forest Stand Delineation.



JONES POINT PARK

Alternative 4A

(One Multi-Use Field South of the WWB)
Potomac Crossing Consultants

Revision Date

February 16, 2007

February 22, 2007

Jones Point Lighthouse
D.C. Cornerstone

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 30, 2011

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR & MEMBERS CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

FROM: JAMES B. SPENGLER, DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

RE: JONES POINT PARK CONSTRUCTION COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP
SITE TOUR; SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011 - UPDATE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the Jones Point Park Construction Community Liaison Group's site tour on Saturday, March 26, 2011. The purpose of the site tour was to provide liaison group members with an up-close briefing of ongoing construction progress. The Community Liaison Information Group is comprised of representatives from resident groups that may be most impacted by ongoing work at Jones Point Park. In addition, group members are identified as direct points of contact for gathering information on neighborhood concerns or questions, and have direct contact with VDOT representatives to address such items as they arise.

The meeting was held on-site and hosted by VDOT and supported by staff of the National Park Service and Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities. Because the site-visit occurred on an active construction site, safety gear including hardhats and construction vests were provided to each attendee as a requirement of participation. A summary of the meeting will be posted on RPCA's website shortly.

CONSTRUCTION SITE ACCESS

In recent weeks, City staff have received questions regarding construction site access by Lane Construction-the General Contractor for the Jones Point Park reconstruction project. The City's Comprehensive Special Permit for Jones Point Park reconstruction and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge indicate that no hauling traffic (such as earth moving trucks and material delivery) is permitted adjacent to Saint Mary's School and Lyles-Crouch School prior to 8:15 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m. on days when school is in session. This requirement does not apply to normal vehicular traffic accessing the site. Enforcement of such permit requirements is the responsibility of the Police and Transportation & Environmental Services-Construction & Inspection. The City has the right to revoke such a permit should it be determined that requirements are not being followed. Note that there are other construction sites in Old Town, therefore such traffic may or may not be specifically related to ongoing work at Jones Point Park.

In addition, complaints resulting from dirt, mud and dust being tracked outside the construction area, primarily on South Royal Street have been received. The General Contractor is maintaining a required construction wash racks at the Jones Point Park construction site and has agreed to regularly monitor the situation and to clean the area as needed.

Department staff regularly discuss and recommend solutions to resident concerns at weekly construction meetings attended by representatives of VDOT, Potomac Crossing Consultants, Lane Construction, and the National Park Service.

BACKGROUND:

Jones Point Park is approximately 65 acres in size. The property is/will remain owned, by the US Federal Government and administered, maintained and operated by the National Park Service of the US Department of Interior.

The National Park Service managed and implemented the park design process for the Park. The process integrated significant public input and included an Environmental Assessment/National Environmental Protection Act process. In June, 2005, the Alexandria City Council voted to support National Park Service proposed action Alternative 4A (attached) and the National Park Service subsequently accepted that plan-which is now being constructed with an anticipated completion date of June, 2012.

Alternative 4A includes significant constructed features including: historic interpretation of the finishing pier/craneway and shipway, renovation of the Jones Point lighthouse, preservation and historic interpretation of the DC cornerstone, an historic site interpretive pedestrian/bike trails, multi-use fields, event lawn, playground and tot-lot, play courts, comfort station, 110 parking spaces, preservation of existing native species and wetlands and natural areas, removal of invasive plant species and replacement with native plant species.

ADDITIONAL & FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION

The next meeting of the Jones Point Park Construction Community Liaison Group is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street. As with each of the liaison group meetings, the purpose of the meeting is to allow liaison members and the general public to ask questions and to be briefed on ongoing Jones Point Park construction activities. The meetings are open to the public and will include representatives from the project's managing parties-VDOT and the National Park Service - as well as staff from the City of Alexandria.

Information regarding Jones Point Park construction is continuously updated on Alexandria's Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities department website at <http://alexandriava.gov/recreation> and VDOT's website for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project at <http://www.wilsonbridge.com/>. These links include information regarding community meetings, construction updates and other information and resources including how citizens may stay informed by subscribing to E-News or other advisories.

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